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Swiss banks, Jewish reps reach claims agreement

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

THIRTY-FOUR years after the last effort to satisfy Jewish claims to funds in Swiss banks, the bankers and Jewish leaders signed an agreement yesterday setting up an independent "committee of eminent persons" to review the accounts again.

The seven-paragraph agreement calls for a committee of six members and four alternates, plus an unspecified chairman. The seats are divided between the Jews and the Swiss bankers. The Jewish delegates are Shevah Weiss, speaker of the Knesset; Avraham Burg, head of the Jewish Agency; and Ruben Baraja, head of the Jewish community of Argentina.

It is the committee's task to instruct an independent international auditor about the scope of its duties. In addition to concerning itself with Jewish accounts, the pact suggests that the Swiss government "will deal with the question of looted assets," an oblique reference to property expropriated by the Nazis and later deposited in the Swiss banks.

The agreement covers banks, but not other financial institutions, such as insurance companies or transfer agencies.

"We are grateful we could reach an agreement," said Georg Krayer, head of the Swiss Bankers Association, which will finance the committee's work. He said he awaited a "correction of these unhappy times."

Even in advance of the signing, the agreement had been widely heralded as a radical departure from traditional Swiss banking practice because it would allow an independent auditor what the pact called "unfettered access to all relevant files in banking institutions."

However, there was no breach in the vaunted Swiss secrecy laws because the commission has no direct access to the records, said Hans Baer, a member of the board of the bankers association. Instead, the committee will appoint an international auditing firm, already licensed in Switzerland and bound by Swiss rules, to conduct the review.

"The main problem is [that people] did not have and still do not have the proper documentation," Krayer said at a news conference after the signing. "There is no secrecy and there has been no secrecy for any individual who is entitled to his money."

The bankers suggested that an ombudsman will be lenient in determining what constitutes acceptable documents.

It was impossible to estimate how many people might file claims. In the 1962 settlement of accounts, some 7,000 claims for funds in the Swiss banks were turned down for lack of documentation.

The value of the Jewish assets remained the main sticking point yesterday. The bankers, while agreeing to the audit, maintain that there was $32 million in Swiss banks that might belong to Holocaust victims.

"With the magic of compound interest," said an official of the World Jewish Congress, "$32 million of 60 years would probably equal half a billion dollars."

However, the bankers said their estimates include the calculations for interest that *might* have accrued.

The signing took place in WJC President Edgar Bronfman's Seagrams building, three blocks from the New York office of the Union Bank of Switzerland, which was

(Continued on Page 20)



A Palestinian vendor gathers his produce yesterday in the Hebron market as soldiers enforce the curfew imposed after Wednesday's stabbing of an elderly Jewish settler. (AP)

Peres holds debate today on Hebron pullback

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and MICHAL YUDELMAN

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres is to meet with top generals and security officials this morning to hear their assessments regarding the timetable for redeployment from Hebron. The meeting, which was to have been held yesterday, takes place amid reports of conflicting views over the right time for withdrawal.

Peres is likely to hear two assessments in the meeting. Chief of General-Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and General Security Service head Ami Ayalon both believe the IDF should pullout from Hebron because a delay could increase motivation by Moslem militants to carry out attacks, Channel 2 reported. They also reportedly believe a pullout would not incur any new risks and that the IDF can provide security after redeployment.

But OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan and OC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon reportedly believe the time is not right for a withdrawal. They believe that not only are there warnings of attacks, but that there is a fear settlers will hold demonstrations and provoke clashes.

"I don't think we will finish the matter in one meeting. The issue is very complicated. It will take a number of meetings until we make a decision," Peres said in Herzliya.

Maj.-Gen. Oren Shahor, coordinator of activities in the territories, said he believes the pullout should be delayed until after the elections, Channel 2 reported. The pullout is to leave the IDF in control of Kiryat Arba, the six Jewish enclaves in Hebron, and Machpela Cave, about 15 percent of the city in which some 20,000 Palestinians live.

In an interview published in Paris yesterday, Peres said that the closure would remain in force until after the elections.

Asked by the magazine *Le Nouvel Observateur* when the closure would be lifted, Peres replied, according to Reuters: "Not before the elections. I am sure [Palestinian Authority President Yasser] Arafat understands why. The result of the election hinges on security."

The Hebron pullout was to have been completed by March 28, but Peres delayed it indefinitely following the bus bombings. He also linked it to the PNC changing its covenant.

The army has said that it would take about 10 hours to transfer the city to the Palestinian Police.

Speaking to students at the Herzliya Interdisciplinary Center for Business, Law, and Technology, Peres said the redeployment in Hebron "depends on one thing. If we can ensure the security there, we will keep our promise [to evacuate the IDF from the Palestinian quarters]. The problem in Hebron is the Hamas element there, which is larger than in other towns."

He lashed out at the right-wing parties' demand that the redeployment be postponed, saying: "I'm astonished by this argument. I heard the right wing has decided to adopt the Oslo agreements. According to these agreements, we must redeploy the forces in Hebron. So I would expect the right wing to support the redeployment enthusiastically."

He reiterated Labor's position that the results of final status negotiations with the Palestinians – and with Syria over the Golan – would be submitted to a referendum. He also stressed that Jerusalem would remain united and under Israeli sovereignty forever.

"Arafat can dream," he said. "I attended a press conference with Arafat where one of the journalists asked him, 'How can you talk, in Peres's presence, of your desire to form a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital?' Arafat replied: 'Can't I dream?' I said to him: 'There's a difference between a dream and an agreement. For a dream, all you need is one. For an agreement, you need two.' We cannot deprive Arafat of his right to dream."

Report: Grapes of Wrath cost IDF NIS 200 million

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

OPERATION Grapes of Wrath, in which more than 20,000 artillery shells and more than 2,000 sorties were flown over Lebanon, reportedly cost the IDF at least NIS 200 million. Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said yesterday that he expects the IDF to cover this from the defense budget.

"I haven't yet received the figures from the IDF," Shohat told Israel Radio. "The defense establishment is dealing with it, and I hope very much it will be covered from their own budget."

The General Staff's financial adviser is reportedly gathering data to put together the final bill for the 17-day operation.

A senior military official told *Ha'aretz* that the estimated cost of the operation was at least NIS 200m. In contrast, the final IDF figure for the cost of 1993's Operation Accountability was NIS 120m. The IDF covered the cost from its budget.

In an effort to cut costs, a security source said some of the 20,000 artillery rounds used were approaching their expiration dates. Using them up avoided the IDF's having to pay to have them destroyed.

Shekel drops 0.3% against dollar

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE shekel depreciated by another 0.3 percent against the dollar yesterday, falling to NIS 3.21 and completing a weekly decline of 1.3% and 4.25% over the past six weeks.

Analysts and traders attributed the drop to expectations that the next prime minister, whether Shimon Peres or Binyamin Netanyahu, will slash the budget to meet the Bank of Israel's recommended trade, budget, and current-account deficit targets.

The central bank has said that it would respond to a meaningful fiscal cut by cutting interest rates, which would increase the shekel's depreciation against foreign currencies.

These expectations are fueling demand for the dollar and other foreign currencies.

The shekel fell against the Bank of Israel's basket of five major currencies to NIS 3.5798 from NIS 3.5672 on Wednesday.

Israeli horse racing under starters' orders soon

EVELYN GORDON

BETTING on horse races seems likely to become part of life here in the near future, as most members of the Knesset Finance Committee expressed support for the idea yesterday.

However, at the request of Dan Tichon (Likud) and Avraham Poraz (Meretz), the committee decided to postpone a final decision until after the elections.

The idea was strongly opposed by the Local Authorities Union. Its chairman, Adi Eldar, told the committee that in other countries which allow betting on horse races, the events have become a magnet for organized crime, which fixes the races and sometimes even "fixes" horses and jockeys.

Furthermore, he said, there is a limited market for gambling here, most of which is currently filled by the lotteries run by Mifal Hapayis. If horse racing were introduced, the money going to the lotteries would decrease, he said, pointing out this would be a blow to the local authorities, since a large chunk of the revenue raised goes to municipal education, health, and welfare projects.

In contrast, Eldar said, the proposal submitted to the committee by the Council for the Regulation of Betting on Sports Events states that at least 60 percent of the revenue from bets on

(Continued on Page 20)

B.H.
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Hizbullah vows to avenge 'Kana innocents'

A LEADING Hizbullah official has vowed to exact a bitter and bloody vengeance upon Israel and Prime Minister Shimon Peres for the Kana village tragedy.

"The blood of our martyrs will set the battlefield on fire. We have an obligation to make the enemy pay for its crimes," Sheikh Nabil Kaouk, head of Hizbullah in south Lebanon, said in a broadcast on the organization's radio station.

"The bodies of the innocents and their families are looking to the holy fighters to avenge them and show the bodies of the occupiers torn to pieces like the bodies of our own people.

"I promise you," Kaouk said, "we will make the butcher Peres feel the pain."

He made the speech in the wake of the mass funeral on Tuesday for the 102 people killed when IDF gunners accidentally shelled UNIFIL's Fijian battalion headquarters in Kana village, where hundreds of civilians had taken refuge from the Operation Grapes of Wrath fighting.

DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

Hizbullah officials have said they will not confine the revenge attacks to the security zone.

Hizbullah has also pledged to aid south Lebanese villagers whose houses or shops were destroyed in the operation.

"As of next Monday morning, the party will give owners of houses and shops which were completely destroyed immediate financial help to start rebuilding," Hizbullah parliamentarian Mohammed Raed said yesterday.

Hizbullah's housing branch – known as the Construction Jihad – will repair damaged houses free of charge, he added.

Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said on Tuesday that Hizbullah is contacting every family whose home was destroyed and offering to rent a house for them for up to a year in the same village or nearby while they rebuild their homes.

'Talks with Syria to resume after elections'

ISRAELI-SYRIAN peace talks will resume after the May 29 elections, Foreign Minister Ehud Barak said yesterday.

Barak, who was speaking to a gathering of accountants at Kfar Hamaccabiah in Ramat Gan, said Israel suspended the talks due to the suicide bus bombings.

However, he confirmed that Israel and Syria continue to maintain an "indirect dialogue."

When talks resume, Barak said, Israel won't discuss the depth of withdrawal until it gets an indication of the extent of ties Damascus seeks.

Israel will also seek Syrian clarifications on their positions on Lebanon and water, Barak said.

"Revealing Israel's position now on its willingness to withdraw from the Golan Heights would be tantamount to showing its cards to its opponent and a mistake in negotiations," he said.

Barak emphasized that negotiations with the Syrians would affect the situation in Lebanon. "The only times there was quiet with Hizbullah were when Israel and Syria were conducting talks."

Regarding Hebron, he said there was no reason to implement the withdrawal "in one day." He said he saw no reason for the IDF to redeploy from Hebron before the elections.

But he emphasized that this was only his opinion and he would accept any government decision on the matter. (Itim)

US concerned over Russia's closure of two Jewish Agency centers

A FLURRY of diplomatic activity in Washington, Moscow, and Jerusalem, as well as pressure from US Jewish leaders, yesterday led to a US State Department statement expressing concern over the closure of certain Jewish Agency centers in Russia.

Meanwhile, Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg arrived in New York for a 10-hour visit, during which he held intensive talks with some 15 Jewish leaders on strategies for dealing with the closure of the agency's offices in Birobidzhan and Piatrgorsk, regional headquarters for aliya from the Caucasus.

They were believed to be discussing various contingency plans, including a concerted worldwide Jewish campaign, to make it possible for the agency to continue its aliya operations in case the situation worsened

BATSHEVA TSUR

Simultaneously, agency experts continued talks with officials of the Russian Justice Ministry on redefining the legal status of the Jewish Agency in that country, after being informed retroactively that on April 2 new laws made it imperative to apply for a different mandate.

The agency had been operating under a mandate, granted in April 1992, to provide educational, religious, cultural, and sports activities and facilities for Russian Jews and permitting it to deal with emigration to Israel, including the transport of people and luggage. The mandate was for an indefinite period, but included a clause permitting its revocation by the Justice Ministry.

The negotiations are reportedly proceeding without special problems. In Russia, emissaries are reportedly continuing with regular activities in the various agency centers – except for Piatrgorsk and Birobidzhan – albeit with an eye on the new laws.

There were no reports of a decline in interest in aliya nor of cancellation of agency activities and flights out of Russia. Agency officials denied reports that men of conscription age are being prevented from going abroad.

High Court rejects petition on Abu Abbas

THE High Court of Justice yesterday rejected without a hearing a petition demanding the trial of *Achille Lauro* hijacker Mohammed (Abu) Abbas, saying the petitioner, New York Assemblyman Dov Hikind, does not have standing in an Israeli court.

The decision is surprising, because the court has allowed petitions from foreigners in the past. In 1993, for instance, the court heard nine petitions asking that John Demjanjuk, recently acquitted of being "Ivan the Terrible" of Treblinka, be tried for having served as an SS guard at Sobibor.

EVELYN GORDON

One of these petitions came from Canadian legal researcher Kenneth Narvey; another came from the World Jewish Congress and the Canadian human rights group InterAmicus.

Justices Yitzhak Zamir, Shlomo Levine, and Dorit Beinish explained that in general, petitioners who are not directly affected by a case derive standing from the general obligations of a civil servant toward the Israeli public.

It is the court's responsibility to see that these obligations are fulfilled.

However, they said, it is not clear that an Israeli civil servant has any such obligations toward a foreigner.

"If somebody was not injured personally ... then who is he that he should come from abroad to demand, in an Israeli court, that a civil servant ... should do his duty in accordance with the laws of Israel?" they wrote.

However, they did not explain why this case should be different from the Demjanjuk affair, saying that since the petition had not addressed the standing issue, it was enough for them to assert, without explanation, that Hikind had no standing in this particular case.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yassin: Reveal location of Sa'adon's body
Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the imprisoned spiritual leader of Hamas, said in an interview broadcast on Israel TV Channel 1 last night that those who know where murdered soldier Ilan Sa'adon is buried should reveal the location for humanitarian reasons. The whole interview is to be broadcast tonight.
Yassin, jailed six years ago, was also interviewed last year on the anniversary of Sa'adon's kidnapping, when he first called for the return of his body to his family for proper burial.
Hamas militants have said they respect his demands but would not take as an order anything he said while interviewed by the Israeli media in an Israeli prison. *Jon Immanuel*

Stabbing victim's condition improves
The condition of Nissim Gedawi, stabbed in the back in the Hebron casbah on Wednesday, was upgraded yesterday from serious to moderate-to-serious. He is in Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem. *Itim*

Bibi appoints special Meshulam committee
Prisons Service Commissioner Arye Bibi has appointed a committee to deal with Uzi Meshulam and 12 of his followers, incarcerated at Ramle's Ayalon Prison. Bibi has, for the time being, stopped the group's right to receive visitors, phone calls and other privileges, following a recent illegal visit by followers who posed as Amnesty International officials. Bibi is reportedly also concerned the group will continue its sporadic hunger strikes, and said the committee will treat Meshulam and his supporters "with an iron fist." *Raine Marcus*

Winning numbers and cards

IN last night's Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 697786 won NIS 1 million. The holder of ticket 415951 won a car.

Tickets numbered 463123, 025378, 645446, 863464, 249165, 806319, 843597 and 412154 won NIS 5,000.

Those tickets ending in 40993, 75157, 00402, 50938, 05679, 84047, 41165, 30519, 23099, 25273, 29641, 41012, 66806, 56867, 93161, 94662, 16468 and 34295 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 125, 227, 323, and 003 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 46, 54, 81, 72 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 82 and 23 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 7 and 3 won NIS 10.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the A of spades, A of hearts, K of diamonds, and 9 of clubs.

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The Land of Israel does not belong to any of them!

Eretz Yisrael must remain outside of the political game. Its destiny is not entrusted to any person, because relinquishing any portion of Eretz Israel is dangerous **and endangers the life of every resident in Israel.**

The view of the Torah is clear and unequivocal: "Non-Jews who besieged Jewish towns... even if they only wish to come regarding matters of straw and stubble, one violates the Sabbath because of them, **lest they capture the city", making it easier for them to conquer Eretz Israel.**
- Shulhan Arukh, Orah Hayyim, 329.6.



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Kibbutz and moshav members bring a cow to the main branch of Bank Hapoalim in Tel Aviv yesterday. They said this was in partial payment of their debt to the bank, which has been milking them for years. (Yossi Zeliger/IPPA)

IDF: Palestinian VIPs misusing status to smuggle Gaza students

ISRAEL has protested to the Palestinian Authority that its VIPs are misusing travel passes to smuggle students from Gaza, and said two senior PA officials "who endangered public security" would no longer be recognized as VIPs, the spokesman for the government coordinator in the territories said yesterday.

Shlomo Dror said his office, headed by Maj.-Gen. Oren Shahor, would reexamine the entire procedure of granting VIPs passes to enter Israel due to the abuses.

Dror said Shahor sent a letter to PA Minister for Civil Affairs Jamil Tarifi, stating that Israel was invalidating the VIP passes of Minister of Social Affairs Intisar Wazir (Um Jihad) and Abdel Rahman Hamed, in charge of energy.

"I am notifying you of the cancellation of the Israeli recognition of their VIP status, because we have unequivocal proof that they misused their privilege to smuggle students from Gaza, who are barred from entering Judea and Samaria, into the West Bank campus of Bir Zeit University, thus endangering the security of the public," Shahor wrote.

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Dror said the incidents were discovered following the arrest of the students.

Without VIP status, Wazir and Hamed will be treated as ordinary Palestinians. This means they will need to obtain Israel permission to travel through Israel and they will be subjected to security checks. Permission for them to bring in escorts or guards is also revoked.

"We see this as a very grave and gross misuse of the trust we put in them. This also could harm the relationship we have with other Palestinian VIPs," Dror said.

Shahor wrote: "We extended our trust to the heads of the Palestinian Authority, which bears ultimate responsibility that there be no suspicion that they would misuse their VIP status. This incident violates this trust."

He also warned that this incident would make Israel less ready to agree to future Palestinian requests to ease the treatment of VIPs.

"We did it out of consideration for them. But they misused it. VIP status is not diplomatic immunity," Dror said.

There are some 80 VIPs with A status, which means they can travel with an escort and guard and not be submitted to security searches. There are another 160 with B status, who are given special treatment, but are open to searches and cannot bring in escorts or guards.

Jon Immanuel adds:

Sufian Abu Zayde, head of the PA's Israel desk, said that if the Israeli claim is true, it was a "mistake" and the reasons for it would have to be examined. "However, the whole matter has been blown out of proportion."

The important thing to note, he said, is that "they were not smuggled in the baggage compartment. They were passengers, whom the Israelis saw and were told were escorts or guards. The problem can be solved simply by having the VIPs supply the names of their escorts ahead of time, so that the Israeli side can check them out.

"We are not talking about smuggling someone who endangered Israeli security, but students who had to reach their universities and certainly were not planning any attacks."

Baram to Peres: Announce slot for an Arab minister in next cabinet

TOURISM Minister Uzi Baram will recommend to Prime Minister Shimon Peres that he announce he will appoint an Arab minister to his cabinet, if he wins the elections.

Baram said yesterday that the decision is up to Peres, "but when I speak to the prime minister, I will recommend appointing an Arab minister and announcing it now. This has been my position for years."

MK Haggai Merom agreed, saying Labor must appoint an Arab minister, even though the next cabinet will be limited to 18 ministers.

Baram and Merom spoke at a press conference held by the heads of Labor's campaign for the Arab sector. They were accompanied by MK Nawaf Massalha and Nadia Hilou, the first Arab woman to be elected to the party's Knesset list.

Baram said Operation Grapes of Wrath had decreased Arab support for Labor and Peres, but estimated that the rift was temporary and would not have a long-term effect on the Arab vote.

MICHAL YUDELMAN

"If elections were held today, I doubt whether the Arab public would stand as one behind Peres. There is anger and deep criticism. But it is already fading and I don't believe it will determine the Arabs' voting patterns in a big way," he said.

Labor's campaign in the Arab sector, for which a special jingle in Arabic was composed, will be held under the slogan of "Peace and Equality," emphasizing that equality for the Arab sector can only be achieved if there is peace.

Merom charged Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu with insincerity in his campaigning for the Arab vote "under the guise of one who supports equality for the Arab sector. Netanyahu and the Likud acted systematically to delegitimize the Arab vote in the Knesset. During the entire Knesset term they claimed the government was leaning on the illegitimate Arab vote. One who objects to having Arabs in the Knesset cannot tell them today how much he wants equality for them. He doesn't understand the essence of equality."

One of the campaign's main goals is to bring as many Arab voters as possible to the polling booths, with the hope of increasing the Arab vote rate from 70% in the last elections to 80% this year, or similar to the Jewish voting rate.

The campaign heads will impress upon the Arab voters that abstaining from voting, or putting a blank note in the ballot box in protest, will defeat their interests, because it will strengthen the right wing. "Abstaining means voting for Netanyahu, Sharon, Raful and Gandhi," one of Labor's slogans in the Arab sectors will say.

PA officials attending ulpan

Palestinian Authority officials joined tourists and new immigrants at Ulpan Akiva in Netanya yesterday to begin a 24-day intensive course to improve their Hebrew. Top officials from the Transport, Finance, and Economic ministries are among the 13 students. *Itim*

Likud protests Dor Shalom's use of police symbol

BILL HUTMAN

THE Likud is up in arms over the use of the official police emblem in advertisements for an event organized by a group closely aligned with the Labor Party. The event is scheduled for tomorrow evening in Tel Aviv's Yitzhak Rabin Square.

The police released a statement yesterday saying it had ordered the group, Dor Shalom, to remove the emblem. A police spokesman said this was done independently of a similar request by a lawyer representing the Likud.

In a letter to Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz, the Likud protested the use of the emblem, saying it made the event – a concert organized to mark six months since the assassination of Rabin and to show support for the peace process – appear state-sponsored.

The police spokesman said Dor Shalom hadn't asked permission to use the emblem, and had removed it from its newspaper advertisements immediately, when ordered to do so.

Dor Shalom spokesman Noam Kedan said he had believed it was acceptable to use the police emblem to show that traffic and other logistical arrangements had been coordinated with the police.

Meretz: Labor has given in to religious parties

The sections on religion in Labor's new platform do not bode well for the next four years, Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said yesterday. He said Labor had surrendered to the religious parties' demands.

He noted that planks from previous platforms calling for yeshiva students to serve in the IDF and for a separation of religion and politics had vanished from this platform. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Oded Ben-Ami named new IDF spokesman

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

ODED Ben-Ami, who was Yitzhak Rabin's media adviser and a former reporter for Israel Radio and TV, has been appointed the next IDF Spokesman, the IDF announced.

He is to take over in mid-June from Brig.-Gen. Amos Gilad, who will be appointed head of the research division of military intelligence, the IDF said.

The current head of the research division, Maj.-Gen. Ya'acov Amidror, will be given another posting in the IDF, the army said.

Ben-Ami's appointment was approved by Prime Minister Shimon Peres. The position is one of a brigadier-general, but it is not yet clear whether Ben-Ami will be given the rank.

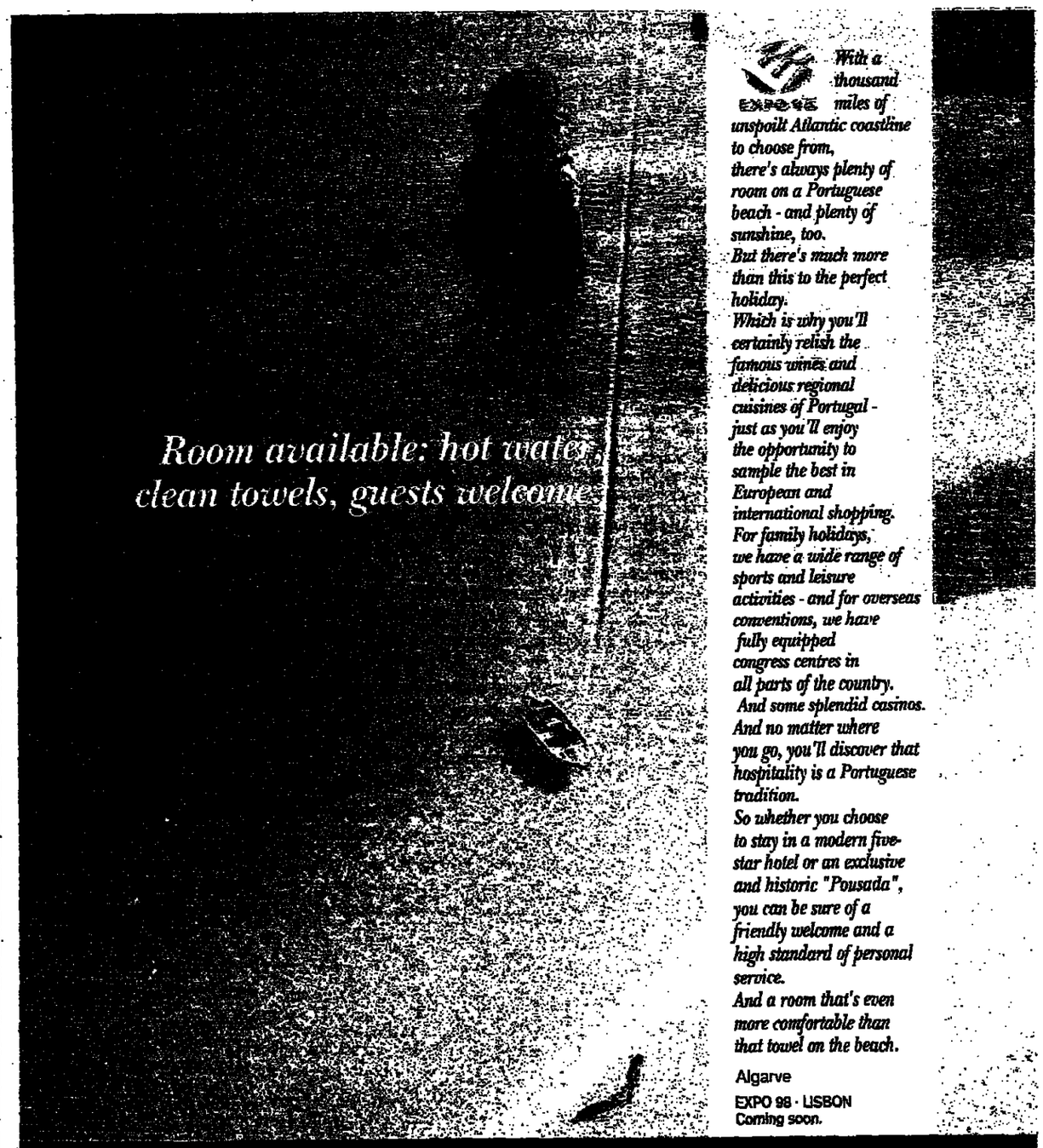
Ben-Ami quit his post as the defense minister's spokesman last summer after Rabin appointed Aliza Goren as his media adviser in the Prime Minister's Office.

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Hebron as parable

TOO many Israelis, perhaps most, Hebron means no more than, say, Jenin or Tulkarm. That the Tomb of the Patriarchs is located there, or that a Jewish community lived there for an uninterrupted millenium until 1929 is, they seem to feel, irrelevant to life in modern Israel. They think of it as an Arab city in which a small, fanatic Jewish minority has settled for purely religious and barely comprehensible reasons. It is a safe bet that roughly half the Israeli population will say that given a choice between an Israeli presence in Hebron and peace, they would with little hesitation choose the latter.

But Hebron also provides proof that no such choice exists.

The Jewish population of Hebron is small. There are altogether 7,000 Jews living in the city and its Jewish "suburb" Kiryat Arba, while the Arab population is estimated at anywhere between 80,000 and 120,000. And if there is one thing about which there is perfect agreement in Israel, it is that if the Jewish population is left unprotected, it will be mercilessly massacred.

The proposed solution, then, is to withdraw from most of Hebron, and keep the IDF in the Jewish parts of the city. Hebron's Jews will thus become, as Labor politicians like to say, a security burden. It is indeed a far-from-perfect solution, and the local residents, who have learned from bitter experience that even the presence of the army in full force could not prevent hundreds of assaults and scores of fatalities, say that no protection can prevent bloodshed.

The simple, brutal fact is that the Arab population does not want a Jewish presence in the area. To kill the Jewish residents, Arabs will stab, ambush, throw petrol bombs, run cars off the roads, and use suicide bombers. The stabbing of a 72-year-old man in the Hebron market on Wednesday was only the most recent of innumerable such attacks. And the withdrawal of the army from the main parts of the city will make it infinitely easier for the terrorists to escape and hide.

This fierce intolerance of Jewish presence has nothing to do with claims of Arab dispossession. The land of Kiryat Arba was a barren hill before it was settled, and most of the property now in Jewish hands in Hebron city was owned by Jews before the 1929 massacre of the Jewish community. But the Arabs consider everything in and around Hebron, as indeed they do everything in the Land of Israel, to be Arab land.

There is another solution, proposed both by the PLO and the Israeli left: the evacuation of both the army and the Jewish residents. Transfer the Jews of Hebron to Green Line Israel, say its advocates, and all will be well. The Palestinians will live in their state, the Israelis will live in Green Line Israel, and peace will reign.

Even if it were possible to implement such a transfer – which must ultimately include all 150,000 Jews living in the territories, and, to satisfy Palestinian demands, an additional 150,000 in the eastern part of Jerusalem – it is impossible to imagine that peace can be made with people who would kill Jews in their midst for the crime of being Jews. (There are, to be sure, those who claim that such killings only occur as a reaction to the "occupation," but history, particularly in Hebron, proves the absurdity of this argument.)

Nor is it possible to contemplate seriously what such a solution entails: the separation of the Jewish and Arab populations. "Separation" is invariably touted by the government after terrorist strikes, and it will undoubtedly be trumpeted during the election campaign as the sane alternative to the concept derisively known as "Greater Israel." But it is a chimerical solution. Barring the utterly unacceptable transfer of hundreds of thousands on both sides, the two populations of this land are inalterably and permanently mixed.

There are 150,000 Palestinian Arabs living in Jerusalem, which even the Labor Party vows to keep as the undivided capital of Israel. Many of these Arabs have strong Hamas affiliations, and almost all identify with the Palestinian Authority. Among the 850,000 Arabs living in Green Line Israel, the response to the rising tide of Palestinian nationalism is felt to a far greater extent than reports in the press would indicate. It is enough to witness the almost total identification with the PA of Arab Knesset candidates, and the refusal of the Arab leadership to condemn Hizbullah, to fathom the extent of the loyalty problem.

If the Hebron dilemma proves anything, it is that the simple solutions of the Oslo agreement, greeted with euphoria two years ago, are unworkable. Jews cannot live safely in this country unless Israeli security forces are there to protect them. Not that such protection guarantees complete security in the foreseeable future. But only if overall responsibility for security is in Israeli hands everywhere between the Jordan River and the sea can a major outburst of terrorism be prevented.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LARGE FAMILIES

Sir, – Our government supposedly encourages its Jewish population to have large families. I discovered that the opposite seems to be true.

Recently my parents suggested that my husband and I, who are expecting our sixth child in June, check out various cars and vans. Our 1983 Subaru station wagon was outgrown two babies ago.

My husband and I started our survey at Mitsubishi. Their Space Wagon seats only seven. My father had already done his research and recommended that we buy the Mitsubishi Space Gear van. But there's a rub. If we buy the van, there is a law that forces us to pay double the insurance of a car since van is considered a commercial vehicle, whether or not it is used for a business. Even if we receive the van as a gift, we cannot afford the insurance.

On another Friday we made the trek to the Talpiot industrial section. We checked with Ford, Toyota, Volvo etc. In short, we found no car which can accommodate more than seven passengers.

So what's a large family to do? (Actually in Har Nof we are not considered a large family.) We are firm believers that each passenger must wear a seat belt or be in a car seat for safety reasons. The present law forces large families to unsafely and illegally put children in the baggage area of a station wagon or to dangerously cram then into a car built for five or seven people. Families who do not use their family vans for business purposes should not have to pay the same amount of insurance that regular owners pay.

ADINA SULLUM HERSHBERG
Jerusalem.

WEB ADDRESS

Sir, – In your story on a new Internet data base about the Adolf Eichmann trial ("Web site on Eichmann trial" (April 21), a typographical error was made.

The correct Web site address on the internet is http://www.snunit.k12.il, and not as reported in your article.

RIVKA SHRAGA,
Deputy Spokesman,
Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport
Jerusalem.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Sir, – I was appalled to read on April 17 that the government of Israel has decided to reduce its allocation for welfare services to Holocaust survivors living in Israel from NIS 4 million to NIS 1.5 million.

Holocaust survivors should be treated as honorary citizens of the State of Israel and provided with whatever support services they require, be they physical or psychosocial in nature. To deprive these aging individuals, who without question have suffered immeasurably in their lifetimes, is not just heaping further humiliation upon them, but it also says something about our government's lack of honest responsibility towards a small yet very special group of its citizens.

It appears the Israeli government has misappropriated money received from the German government as compensation to our Holocaust survivors and this is indeed tragic and sad. Does our government have no shame?

It behooves our government to rectify its error in judgment before its 60 percent reduction in support of important organizations such as Amcha causes unnecessary further harm to our distinguished Holocaust survivors.

IRVING M. GOLDENBERG
Efrat.

CRAFTY MOVE

Sir, – How very crafty of the PNC to vote to amend the PLO charter in six months. On CNN and BBC, it was reported that they had amended the charter; friends here in Israel also made such an assumption. Having made such a shrewd move, the PLO hopes to be assured of a Peres victory in May, and then in six months... who knows? They will probably have Hebron (reported on CNN as a "Palestinian town") and perhaps even their own state. At that point, we won't be in a position to remind them of this "democratic" decision to amend their charter, since they'll be a sovereign nation by that time.

Let us hope and pray that the people of Israel have listened closely, heard correctly, and will vote wisely!

SHOSHANA WEINSTEIN
Kfar Adumim.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK

Sir, – I applaud your appropriate response to Hizbullah. Why not go after the real culprit, Iran? It foments terrorism and commits an act of war against Israel by supporting the Hizbullah terrorists, and against the US by their continual counterfeiting of US currency.

Keep up the good work and please do not trade land for peace or you will be at the mercy of your enemies. Just remember an enemy yesterday may be a friend today, but then again an enemy tomorrow. Paper "peace" agreements by lying serpents are no defense at all, but merely offer "false" hope and destruction.

DARREN R. YOUNG
Charleston, West Virginia.

HEADLINES

Sir, – Your April 19 headline, "IDF shelling kills 100 Lebanese civilians," could easily have been written by the most anti-Israel BBC copywriter. Truth is never absolute. "The glass is half empty" conveys the same facts as "the glass is half full," but each carries its own implied prejudice. Could your people not have found it in their hearts, without violating the truth to have written something like: "Hizbullah rockets attracts IDF response, resulting in 100 Lebanese fatalities"?

HARRIS D. GULKO
Jerusalem.

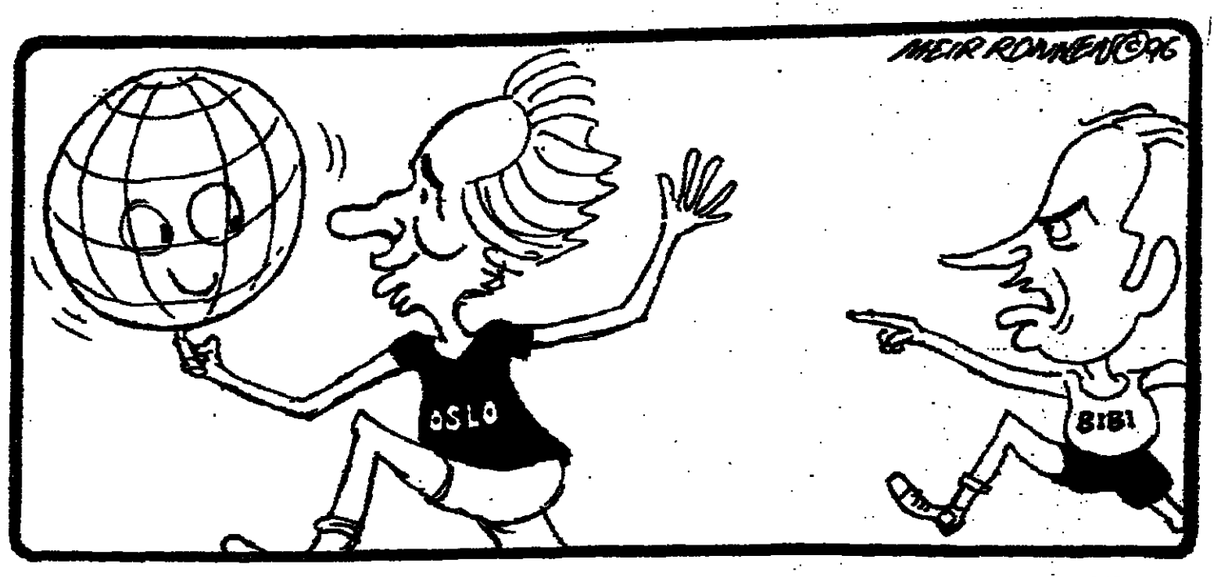
EFFRONTERY

Sir, – Recently, while I shopped for food, a new egregious example of our enemies' effrontery stared me in the face. On a grocery shelf stood some imported kitchen pots, with a blatant brand name label in Arabic and English, "6 October," with the picture on the label depicting an Arab soldier and an Egyptian flag.

I loudly complained to the cashier, who claimed the store owner would take care of the matter. Nevertheless, I would like to know whether our pride, as Jews and Israelis, has taken such a nosedive that we say nothing when our enemies export products which brazenly gloat of their Yom Kippur aggression against us, not even troubling to change the label, and we let them get away with it.

SHAUL CEDER
Jerusalem.

"Traveling!!"



Hebron, now and forever

ARIEL SHARON

At every street corner signs proclaim: "An entire generation demands peace!" But anyone with an iota of national responsibility must realize that peace is not a short-term goal, nor should it be a campaign gimmick. Peace must last generations, not just a lifetime. And it must be dealt with seriously, not with undue haste.

We are not divided into peace lovers and peace opponents. Only the prime minister and his ally and friend, war criminal Yasser Arafat, brand the National Camp "enemies of peace."

"Arafat is trustworthy, I trust Arafat," the prime minister repeatedly declares. Yet he knows from all the relevant intelligence agencies that Arafat is not combating Palestinian terrorism – that he wishes to preserve the Hamas terrorist infrastructure, to pressure this weak-kneed, dangerous government during the final status talks.

In the past week the prime minister declared several times that "Arafat has met all his commitments, so we, too, shall fulfill all our obligations." There is no greater untruth than this. The premier and his government know that Arafat has not fulfilled any obligation. He has neither fought terrorism, nor extradited murderers of Israelis, nor collected all weapons in areas under his control, nor stopped his anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish propaganda.

Even the much advertised annulment of the Palestinian Covenant is a joint deception perpetrated by the government and Arafat. Instead of eliminating its 28 offensive clauses Arafat intends to present a new covenant in six months' time, after the Israeli elections. Nobody knows what the new document will contain. Nor does the government care, for it will be after the elections. What's important now is to win the election, even if it means perpetrating a deception in collaboration with Arafat.

> What other people has such a monument, where the patriarchs and matriarchs of the nation rest in a single place?

HEBRON IS next. "You can't rule 160,000 Palestinians for the sake of 400 Jews," is how the prime minister put it to the Torah sages and scholars, the leaders of the haredi community. As usual, everything about the government is dilettantish, improvised, baseless and even a deliberate lie. Hebron with all its neighborhoods and suburbs has less than 120,000 Arab inhabitants; the number of Jews living in Kiryat Arba, also a part of Hebron, and in the city itself is about 7,000.

But what matters is not whether there are 400 Jews in Hebron, but the 4,000 years of Jewish history. What other people has such a monument, where the patriarchs and matriarchs of the nation rest in a single place? Every Jewish child should have been brought there, every official guest invited there, every tourist urged to visit – for that is where our roots are.

Due to our government's impotence, the city of the forefathers also contains the Hamas headquarters for the Judea and Samaria area. Deliberately, the government is creating a situation intended to force the Jews of the city to abandon their homes. But the government is wrong in its expectations.

The Jews of Hebron will not depart. They are deeply dedicated individuals who know that without their presence, no Jews will ever again visit Hebron and its holy sites.

The haredi world is up in arms; the National Camp in Israel is stirred. The reaction of the Torah sages has surprised this government. The sages sense great danger for the very existence of the Jewish people. And they, with the Jewish residents of Hebron, will save the city.

The government has alternatives: It can leave the situation as it is while dealing more effectively with Palestinian terrorism. Or it can retain security control while permitting a civilian Palestinian authority to function in the Arab sector of the city.

The Jewish sector, including the cemeteries, the Tel Rumeida road, the Hadassah building complex, Beit Romano, the Mystics' Yeshiva, the "Jewish Courtyard," the Avraham Avinu Synagogue, the Machpela Cave area and the eastern casbah should be attached to Kiryat Arba.

I still believe that a sense of responsibility will prevail and the notion of withdrawing the IDF from Hebron and abandoning the security of Jews, civilians and soldiers alike, will be dropped; and that the joint threat by the government and Arafat that terrorism will increase if the IDF is not pulled out will not sully the air. And if the government lacks that sense of responsibility, the danger of losing the election because of Hebron should stay its hand.

The writer, a Likud MK, is a former defense minister.

The election gamble

MARK A. HELLER

The brief interlude between the end of Operation Grapes of Wrath and the beginning of the prime minister's visit to Washington provided a window of opportunity which the media used to inform us that the police and income tax authorities are investigating illegal gambling rings and the alleged fixing of sports events.

This is a nice, juicy scandal, good for celebrity photos, titillating stories, and sincere expressions of shock and outrage. Still, the worldly-wise among us are not really surprised to learn that there is something rotten in the world of professional sports. And while we may feel a momentary twinge of sympathy for the suckers who risked their money on games that might have been rigged, the fact is that only a few of us are directly involved in this incident.

By contrast, we are all going to vote for the next government at the end of this month, and most of us believe that our welfare and even our security depend on the outcome of that vote. This makes the election a far bigger gamble than the weekly Toto. But given the way the campaign is evolving, we may not have a much better idea of what we're really doing than did those poor suckers who thought they were betting on honest basketball or football games.

Of course, party platforms have never been a truly reliable guide to the way governments actually performed once they were in office. Not only did the inevitable coalition agreements force compromises; changing circumstances, unforeseen threats or opportunities, and the emergence of domestic or international pressures obliged leaders to respond in ways that could not have been predicted from either the specific content or general tone of their political histories or electoral messages.

In recent decades, we have therefore been shocked but not really surprised either by Menachem Begin's decision to give up the Sinai or Yitzhak Rabin's agreement to recognize the PLO.

> The new electoral system encourages the candidates to blur the distinctions dividing them

The latest example is Shimon Peres's decision, however reluctant, to authorize Operation Grapes of Wrath. The campaign in Lebanon lacked both a clear objective and a coherent strategy, and it entailed a serious risk of either ignominious retreat or entangling escalation. Israel was ultimately spared this dilemma by the persistence of US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who managed to reestablish the 1993 understandings (the demonstrated inadequacy of which was the ostensible reason for the campaign), though not before the operation produced among many Lebanese a degree of hatred and a desire for revenge against Israel that will endure long after the physical damage is repaired.

THE POINT is that events and public pressure have always conspired to produce results which seem out of keeping with what we think we know about the philosophical and policy preferences of particular leaders. But the peculiarity of the present election campaign is that it tells us even less than before about what those preferences are.

In the direct vote for prime minister, there are only two candidates, and since the race is fairly close, the outcome will ultimately depend on the choices of a relatively small number of "floating voters." Since these people are, by definition, in the middle, the most rational electoral strategy is to try to appeal to them by stressing consensual themes or centrist slogans.

As in American presidential elections, a candidate in a two-man race who strays too far from the middle risks losing, not only the floaters, but even some of his own mildly committed supporters; in 1964, when Republican candidate Barry Goldwater insisted on presenting "A Choice, Not an Echo," the result was electoral disaster (though the victory of the "moderate" candidate, Lyndon Johnson, did not bring the war in Vietnam any closer to an end).

Consequently, the structure of the new electoral system encourages the candidates to blur the distinctions between them even more than in the past, and the result is a contest between a Shimon Peres who reassures the settlers, guarantees an undivided Jerusalem as the exclusive capital of Israel, and promises "a strong Israel" and a Binyamin Netanyahu, who endorses Oslo, commits himself to deal with Yasser Arafat, and increasingly speaks like a dove just come out of the closet.

Of course, blurred messages do not mean the elimination of basic differences, but electoral tactics may sway enough wavering voters to make a decision based on unfounded assumptions. And while the majority of voters, those who are already committed, don't take this too seriously – supporters of Netanyahu still believe that Peres intends to give away the store, supporters of Peres are still convinced that Netanyahu will destroy the entire peace process – even they can't be sure that what their own candidate "really" believes is what he will really do. Either way, the choice involves some considerable degree of uncertainty.

That does not mean the election is dishonest. Unlike some sports events, nobody here can rig either the outcome or the point spread. Still, what we're betting on is not absolutely clear, and even those who back the winning horse may be surprised at what happens once the winner is past the finish line.

The writer is senior research assistant at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

POSTSCRIPTS

A CONVICTED defendant whose counsel was asleep to the point of being "unconscious" for long stretches in court deserves a new trial, an American appeals court ruled.

However, lest defendants be tempted to let sleeping lawyers lie, the court stopped short of saying a snoring attorney always warrants a new trial. The court said it didn't want to set too broad a precedent because lawyers might start feigning sleep to create grounds for appeal.

"Consciousness and sleep form a continuum," the court wrote. "There are states of drowsiness that come over everyone from time to time during a working day, or during a trial, for that matter."

Dale Tippins, convicted in 1986 of drug charges and sentenced to 18-years-to-life in prison, contended that his lawyer, Louis Tirelli, slept through key points of the proceedings.

Tirelli slept every day of the trial, during the testimony of a key prosecution witness and during damaging testimony by a co-defendant.

The appeals court agreed.

"Tirelli was actually unconscious," the appeals court wrote. "Tirelli's sleeping was not a fitful inattention or a meditative focusing of the mind's powers. The court reporter heard him snore a couple of times."

SWEDISH FARMER Birger Moquist was shocked by what he saw when he walked into the barn of his hog farm: his 2,500 pigs were drunk.

Many were staggering, some were fighting, some were lying on the ground squealing and a few were vomiting.

Moquist said the incident reminded him of what he'd seen at a dance club.

The piggies had been given their usual food: residue from a dairy farm. But the food had fermented and turned into alcohol.

A 5-YEAR-OLD boy jumping on a bed bounced out a third-story apartment window and landed in some landscaping, where he was shaken up but not seriously hurt.

The Bedford, Oregon, boy complained of some back and head pain and was taken to a hospital, but suffered only minor injuries and was sent home.

The boy was with a baby sitter, and bounced right through the screen of an open window. He fell about 7.5 meters and landed in a sitting position in some soft bark dust in a landscaping bed.

A trail of bark dust up the stairway indicated he walked back to the apartment after the fall.





The Shamgar puzzle

REUVEN PEDHAZUR

THE conclusions of the *Shamgar Commission*, particularly the sections in the confidential part of its report which address the planting of agents in extreme right organizations, shed new light on an event forgotten in the tumult surrounding Yitzhak Rabin's assassination.

The "systemic failure" of the General Security Service, pointed out by the commission, does not end with the "faults of thought and execution" which led to its deployment in a manner which did not provide an appropriate response to the threat. Beyond what was stated in the report, we ought to examine the GSS's deviation from the boundaries of its operational framework and its slide into political involvement, as demonstrated by the events in Halhoul.

On September 7, two months before Rabin's assassination, Salman Hussein Zamara of Halhoul was murdered. Seemingly, there is no connection between the two murders, but revelations by the commission show that there is a connection, and this connection should not be ignored when its recommendations are implemented.

Immediately after Zamara's murder, two extremist organizations, David's Sword and Eyal, released a statement taking responsibility for it. They called it "an act of revenge for the murder of Daniel Frei in the settlement of Michmash," which had taken place several days before.

Eyewitness accounts by Halhoul residents and Zamara's family claimed that five men dressed in IDF uniforms entered the victim's house, tied up Salman's father, and began to interrogate him. Five minutes later, Salman arrived home, and on seeing his bound father tried to run away. When the men saw him, two of them shot him.

The murder, and the assumption that it was committed by Jews, generated a wave of stormy reactions among politicians and served the coalition government as certified

The commission paid too little attention to the politicization of the GSS

proof of a growing fanaticism among settlers, which was winning support from right-wing parties."

AFTER nine days full of accusations and condemnations against settlers and against their patrons on the political right, the police finally solved the case. They found that Zamara had been murdered by three Halhoul residents with criminal records, who had shot him because he interfered when they were trying to commit a robbery.

In those days of political agitation and flying charges between right and left, the case, once resolved, was deemed no more than another ordinary incident in which Arab criminals had tried to cast the blame on settlers by disguising themselves as Jews.

But in retrospect, one cannot help raising a long list of questions. Now that we know that Eyal, under the leadership of Avishai Raviv, had been operated by GSS agents, the GSS's activity in this affair must be examined in a new light.

Three days after the murder, GSS representatives appeared before a cabinet meeting. In their report on the murder in Halhoul, they stated that they didn't yet have proof, but that it was likely that the murderers were Jews. They reminded the ministers that David's Sword and Eyal had taken responsibility for the murders, and that the GSS was investigating the organizations' statements.

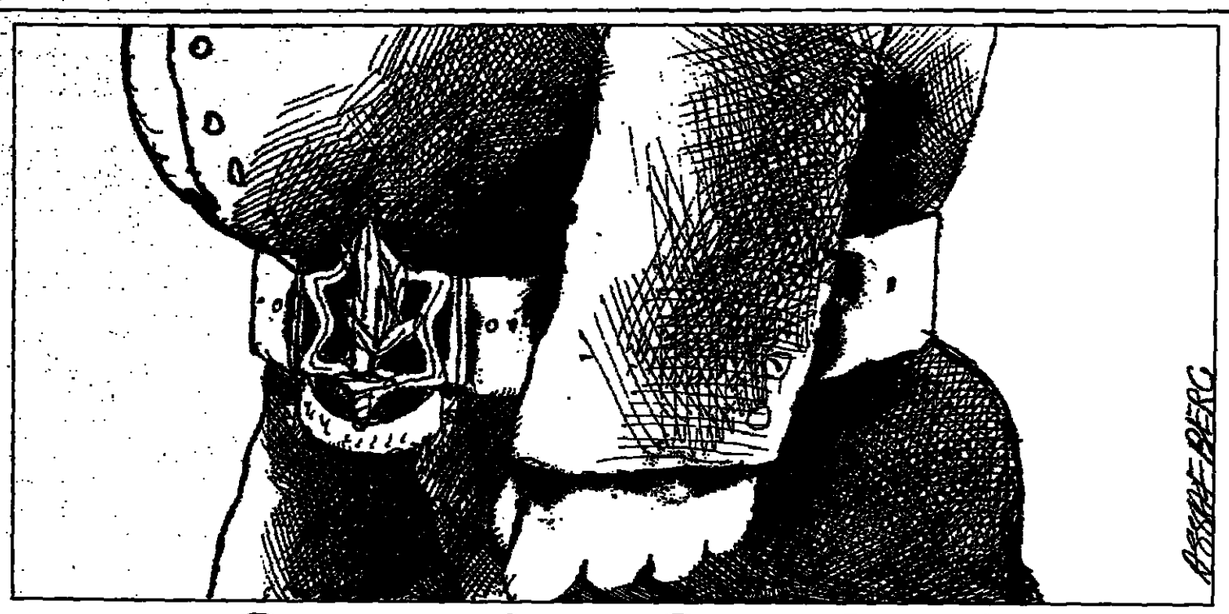
At the same meeting, Rabin was quoted as saying, "If it turns out that the murder in Halhoul was carried out by Jews, this fact will serve the Palestinians ... Whoever thinks that the attack on an innocent Palestinian will stop the peace process is wrong. Rather, it will lead to conditions under which the Palestinians will be able to defend themselves."

The reports delivered at this cabinet meeting raise a number of questions. The GSS knew for a fact that the Eyal organization it operated had not committed the murder. Why did its representatives conceal this from the cabinet?

Senior GSS officials were certainly aware of the atmosphere of incitement against the extremist right following this incident, and it was in their power to help calm the waters. But they chose not to do so. Is this not an instance of the GSS siding with the government and prime minister in the political debate?

Intelligence efforts against the extreme right-wing have required, and still require, the planting of agents in their organizations. But it seems that the GSS has crossed the boundary between an operational necessity and a crude and dangerous involvement in the political game. This is an aspect of the affair which the Shamgar Commission did not stress nearly enough.

(Courtesy of Ha'aretz)



Operation Overhaul

URI AVNERY

Operation Grapes of Wrath failed both politically and militarily. From a political standpoint, Iran was given unprecedented legitimacy through its participation in the cease-fire negotiations. Assad, the cleverest leader in the region, won big, with Damascus serving as the hub of diplomatic activity. The Sharm e-Sheikh conference was turned into a mockery. And the entire Lebanese people rallied behind Hizbullah, praising it as a victorious freedom-fighting organization.

Israel's affirmed goal – to exert pressure on the Lebanese government through the suffering of hundreds of thousands of expelled citizens, in order to pressure Syria, which in turn would stop Hizbullah – was not attained. Hizbullah was left with full freedom of action.

At the end of the operation the status quo returned, with only cosmetic alterations. The source of the problem, the resistance to Israel's occupation of the security zone, was not rooted out. At best, the next crisis was postponed until after the elections.

From a military standpoint the failure was even greater. The military leadership forced an acquiescent Labor-Meretz government to undertake the operation, through false assessments and empty promises. Not only did this "surgical" operation turn into a messy war, but it did not achieve its military objective: to put a stop to the Katyushas.

FOR TOO long, Israel has been far too forgiving toward a consistently failing military leadership. The fact is that for 28 years, this leadership has not definitively won a single war. Let's take a look at the list:

The War of Attrition (1969) lasted for over a year and ended in failure. Israel was unable to bear the pressure on the Bar-Lev fortification line. A furious Golda Meir was forced to agree to a cease-fire and to the principle of withdrawal.

We are saddled with a fat, internally divided army whose upper echelon is alarmingly unwise

The Yom Kippur War (1973) opened with a crushing defeat at the hands of the Egyptians and the Syrians. The Bar-Lev line fell, and the Golan settlements were conquered. In the course of the long, painful war, the IDF ultimately recovered, but the later successes did not erase the long-term impact of the early rout. At the end of the war, the Egyptian army remained in the territory it had conquered east of the Suez. Interim agreements after the war restored parts of the Sinai to Egypt, and the peace agreement returned the rest.

Operation Litani in Lebanon (1978) yielded nothing at all, outside of the pointless establishment of UNIFIL. PLO control of southern Lebanon was strengthened.

The Lebanon war (1982) was the worst failure in the history of the IDF and the massacre at Sabra and Shatilla transformed failure into smashing defeat. And when the PLO bowed out, Hizbullah stepped in.

The intifada (1987) ended in Palestinian victory. The military establishment could not seem to grasp that it was incapable of quashing the Palestinian uprising. Its methods all failed, and the PLO came away with full and official recognition in the Oslo accords.

Operation Accountability in Lebanon (1993), which expelled hundreds of thousands of residents from their homes, certified Hizbullah as the dominant force in south Lebanon. The operation concluded in "understandings" that gave the organization renewed freedom of action, albeit with superficial changes.

What went wrong with the IDF? Back in 1967, Yitzhak Rabin's general staff orchestrated a stunning Six Day War victory on three fronts, at a time when its command consisted of only three-and-a-half divisions, and the border was the Green Line. But the extraordinary magnitude of the victory subsequently became a stumbling block. A new generation of generals was consumed with arrogance, narrow-mindedness, lack of political understanding, and scorn for Arabs.

In Grapes of Wrath, all of these faults were evident – the primitive belief in brute force, the faulty political thinking, the ignorance, the worship of "smart" weaponry, the manipulation of the media, and – for the first time – the military threatening the government, warning against "stopping us in the middle."

Instead of the lean, unified, smart fighting force we once knew, we are saddled with a fat, internally divided army whose upper echelon is alarmingly unwise. Considering how vital the IDF is to Israel's well-being, in war and in peace, there is only one rational conclusion: The IDF leadership is in need of an immediate and comprehensive overhaul.

The writer is head of the Peace Bloc.

A show of strength is often necessary

BARRY RUBIN

When 68 people are killed in terrorist attacks, Israel wins international sympathy. But when Israel closes the territories to prevent more attacks, it is harshly criticized.

When northern Israel is hit by Katyushas, Israel wins international sympathy. But when it hits back, it is internationally condemned.

When Israel acts, the pattern of Western response is remarkably consistent – and usually totally wrong. Reaction to the fighting in Lebanon was no different from that to a dozen other previous episodes.

Whether it was the crisis around the 1967 war, the 1981 attack on Iraq's nuclear reactor, the 1985 bombing of PLO headquarters in Tunis, the handling of the intifada, or long-term strategy on the Arab-Israeli conflict, a similar set of principles always emerges in the views of the Western media, and often in public opinion and government policy.

• Israel cannot succeed by using force or pressure. It cannot defeat the Arab states in war, stop terrorism, put down the intifada, force its enemies to change their policy, or achieve other goals.

This misconception comes partly from a basic misunderstanding of international affairs: Using power is often necessary to reach goals, deter enemies, or force others to change their behavior. Since people in the Middle East understand this, Israel's ability and willingness to show its strength often does obtain important ends.

In addition, the error is to misrepresent Israel's goal. Terrorism cannot be stopped completely but it can be reduced. The intifada could not be ended entirely, but showing Palestinians that an uprising would not force Israeli withdrawal was a major factor in pushing the PLO toward serious negotiations and reasonable compromise.

• By attacking or refusing to make concessions, Israel only strengthens Arab hatred.

This implies that hatred was not a pre-existing condition. The Lebanese, in general, did not love Israel before Operation Grapes of Wrath, and most would probably not do so even if there were to be full peace. The problem is actions, not attitudes.

• Israeli action will unite the Arabs against it.

A half-century shows that Arab unity is mainly verbal. When the United States bombed Libya in 1985 or prepared to attack Iraq in 1991, for example, it was widely remarked that all Arabs would become anti-American. Now, it is reported that Israel's attacks in Lebanon will make it impossible for the peace process to continue.

But regime and state interests determine the policy of Arab governments. Time after time, crises have been quickly forgotten.

• Israeli toughness will lose Western support and strengthen radical forces. It is argued, for example, that thanks to Israel's Lebanon operation, the West is courting Syria and Iran.

This is partly a self-fulfilling prophecy, as even before this crisis, Europe was soft on Iran, while the US was acting as if Syria would be doing it a big favor by accepting more concessions to make peace with Israel.

When Israel acts, Western response is consistent – and wrong

• The issue is reinterpreted and Israel's motives for action omitted.

The Western media largely accept the lie that the current conflict is caused only by maintenance of the security zone in South Lebanon. Hizbullah is not a patriotic Lebanese organization devoted to recovering every inch of its national territory. It would like to see Lebanon dissolved into a much larger Islamic state, and its goal is to destroy Israel, as shown by its help to anti-Arafat Palestinian groups which stage terror attacks from southern Lebanon.

The same Lebanese politicians who complain about Israel's attacks on humanitarian grounds fought a 15-year civil war in which they did not hesitate to slaughter civilians. They have neglected the south for decades. And those who declaim passionately about the evils of Israeli occupation have no word of complaint against Syrian or Iranian occupation.

Despite an unprecedented UN statement essentially blaming Hizbullah for the Kana tragedy, the event is interpreted as proof of Israel's evil, rather than as showing how terrorists cynically use civilians as shields. No one remembers how, on February 13, 1991, a US F-117 fired a missile at a supposed military communications center in Baghdad, killing or injuring 300 civilians in a bomb shelter.

The news of the day is a poor guide to strategic outcomes. Memories may be long in the Middle East, but crisis after crisis fades and is forgotten, despite contemporary predictions of permanence.

The fact is that solutions are rarely found by unilateral concession or intransigence. The proper strategy is to show you are tough and can exact costs, and then show a willingness to make a compromise which the other side can accept, but is also in your interest.

Israelis know this lesson well. Many abroad will never comprehend or sympathize. But as long as the strategy works in the longer term, that really does not matter.

The writer is author of Revolution Until Victory? The Politics and History of the PLO *and co-editor of* The Israel-Arab Reader.

More than due credit

ELIYAHU KANOVSKY

Government spokesmen like to point to Israel's relatively high rate of economic growth – over seven percent in 1995 – accompanied by moderate inflation (8.1%) and a low rate of unemployment (6.3%).

But a closer look at the recently-issued Bank of Israel Annual Report for 1995 reveals that the government, understandably, tends to claim far more credit than is due. Far worse, it tends to ignore some crucial negative developments which cast doubt on a continuation of the high-level progress the economy has achieved over the past six or seven years.

Achieving a high rate of economic growth is usually a desirable goal, and Israel has been in the forefront of countries with favorable records in this area. But this strong uptrend began in 1990, under the previous government, not in 1993. In fact the average annual growth rate for 1993-1995 was 5.7%, compared with 6.4% in the previous three-year period.

Unemployment rose in the early 1990s, in large measure because of the mass aliya from the former Soviet Union. The high level of economic growth since 1990 has created many more jobs, resulting in a steady drop in unemployment from a peak of 11.2% in 1992 to 6.3% in 1995. At the same time, there was a corresponding drop in the number of immigrants from an annual level of close to 200,000 in 1990 and 1991 to about 75,000 per year in 1992-1995.

As for inflation, the downtrend began in the mid-1980s, mainly as a result of the economic reforms adopted at that time. The annual rate of inflation dropped sharply from well over 400% in 1985 to 20% in 1989, 12% in 1992, and 10% in 1995.

In short, when government leaders claim credit for achieving high levels of economic growth and low levels of unemployment and inflation, the record shows that this was largely a continuation of earlier trends.

The most serious failure of the past three years is starkly evident from external accounts. The import surplus rose very sharply from $3.8 billion in 1989 to $6.8b. in 1992, then skyrocketed to $11.1b. in 1996. This resulted in a rapidly expanding current account deficit. The current account balance went from a surplus of $154 million in 1990-1992 to a deficit of $4.1b in 1995. This was due to a huge increase in civilian imports.

Though exports were rising, imports rose far more rapidly. This was due in part to worsening terms of trade, i.e. the prices of goods which Israel exports rose less rapidly than the prices of imported goods. This current account deficit was financed, for the most part, by external borrowing, much of it through short-term loans.

BORROWING from abroad need not be negative. If the external loans finance the establishment, expansion, or modernization of productive enterprises, productive capacity may increase, and exports as well. This, in turn, creates the wherewithal to repay the loan, and still leaves us way ahead of the game, with expanded production, more jobs, and a healthier balance of payments.

But if the loans mainly finance increased imports of consumer goods, they can become very onerous.

By way of analogy, an individual may spend beyond his income – through credit card loans, bank loans, and the like – and appear well off. All an outsider can see is that he takes expensive vacations, buys a second car, etc. But within a few years the loans become due, and he may be left with a heavy burden of debt.

Israel's gross external debt rose from $31.5b. in 1989 to more than $44b. in 1995. Israel's net external debt actually fell by about $1b. between 1989 and 1992, to $15b., then rose sharply by $4b., to over $19b., in 1995.

Living standards, measured by inflation-adjusted private consumption per capita, rose nicely in 1990-1992 by about 2.5% a year. But in 1993-1995, all caution was thrown to the winds and private consumption rose by about 5% a year.

This rapid growth in private consumption lowered the rate of national savings, and made the economy more dependent on external sources to finance investment. Gross national savings as a ratio of income, which had risen from 18% in 1990 to 22% in 1992, fell to 18% in 1995.

The unusually rapid growth of imports and the yawning current account deficit are interrelated.

Much of the increase in imports was in consumer goods. But even the purchase of more locally-made consumer goods requires increased imports of capital goods, raw materials, spare parts, etc.

The import component of many Israeli-made products is about 40%. Buying blue-and-white may reduce total imports; it does not eliminate them.

A small industrializing country must put the emphasis on exports. In those Asian countries – often referred to as tigers – which have shown unusual economic success over the past 20 or 30 years, the emphasis has been on exports. The Bank of Israel report notes that Israel recently has been laggard in that regard.

The rapid growth in GDP has been led by rising consumption rather than by exports. But growth in consumption is soon constrained by balance of payments problems.

Borrowing to finance much of the current account deficit can only postpone the day of reckoning. Export-led growth is far more solidly based, and more likely to be long-lasting.

The Bank of Israel report concludes that the current path of economic development cannot persist. Sharp cutbacks in government spending are required to ensure longer-lasting high-level economic growth.

This might entail cutbacks in social services and welfare, worsening the already wide gap between the rich and the poor and cutbacks in subsidies.

It might also mean, one hopes, smaller handouts to the politically favored. But this painful and unpopular task would be better left to the next government.

The writer is a professor of economics at Bar-Ilan University.

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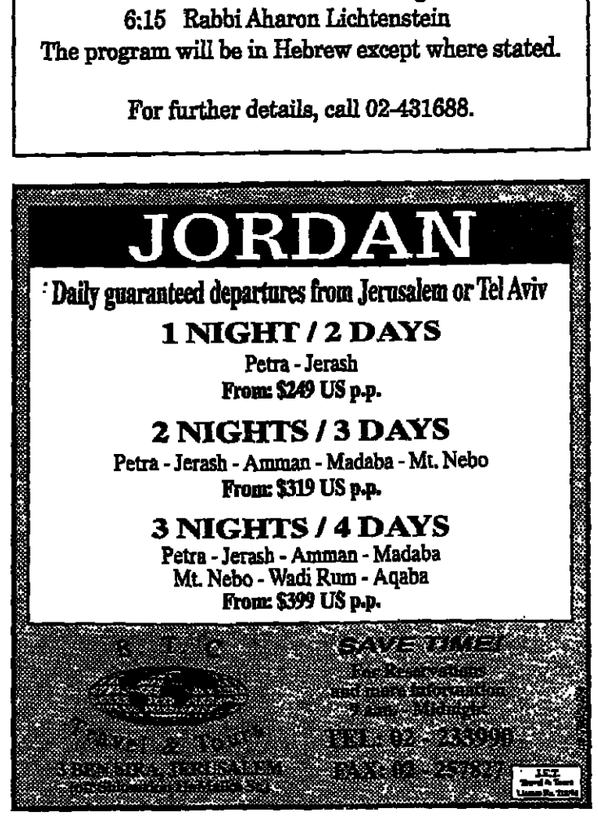
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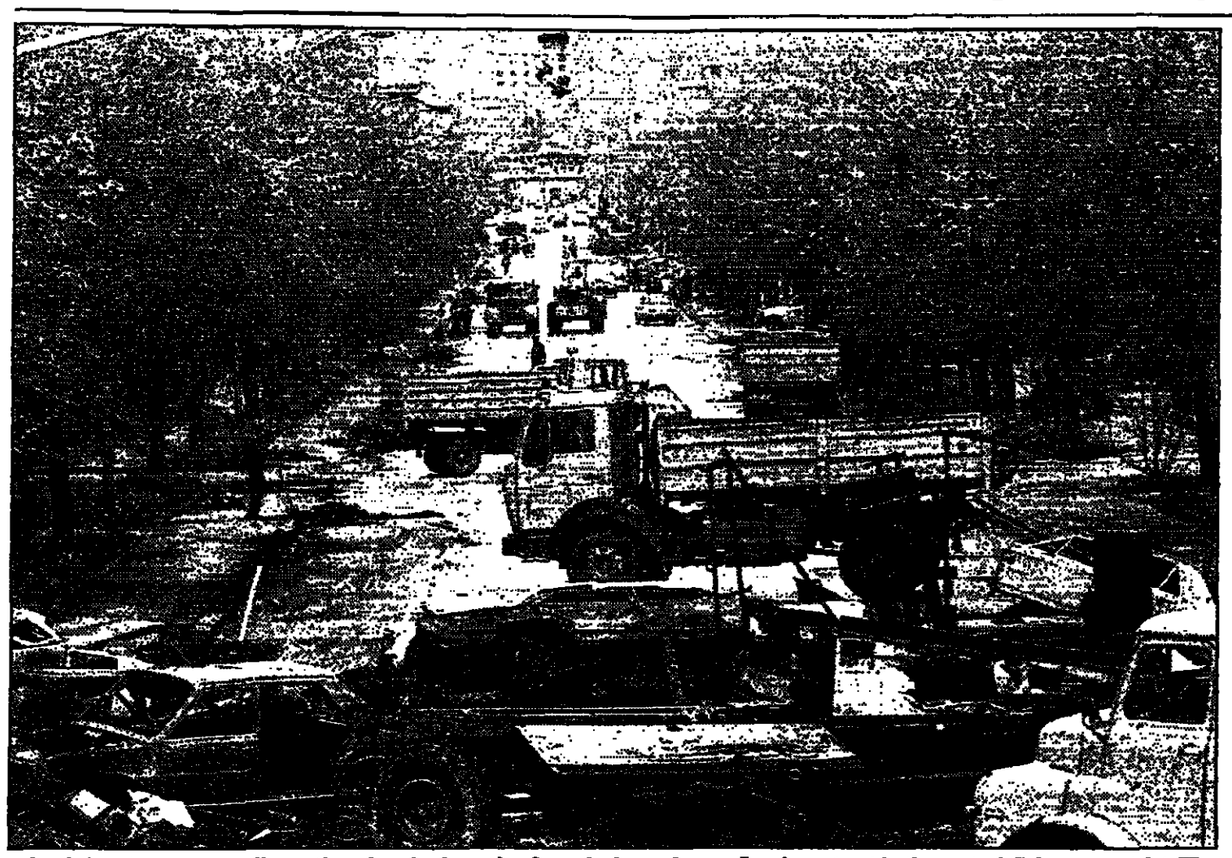

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A local cleaning company dismantles a barricade made of wrecked cars from a Sarajevo street in the central Grbavica district. The barricade was set up by Bosnian Serbs who held the district until recently. It was handed over to the Moslem-Croat Federation following the Dayton agreement. (Reuter)

Militias battle for Monrovia bridge

MONROVIA (Reuter) – Militiamen led by a commander calling himself "General Saddam Hussein" battled forces loyal to Liberia's strongest warlord Charles Taylor for control of a key bridge in the capital Monrovia yesterday.

Taylor, speaking on his Kiss FM radio station to dispel rumors that he had fled, vowed to clear ethnic Krahn fighters out of the city's main barracks, the Barclay Training Center (BTC).

But aides and peacekeepers said warlord Alhaji Kromah, like Taylor a vice-chairman in the interim government and his ally in the current fighting, had left Monrovia for his base in northern Liberia as rival militia forces edged close to his home.

Taylor said there would be no ceasefire until the Krahn leader Roosevelt Johnson surrendered.

"We are going to clean up all around the BTC, block by block, street by street, house by house, before we storm the barracks," he told the radio.

Krahn fighters led by the commander naming himself after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein battled Taylor's forces on the Johnson Street Bridge, connecting Bushrod Island to the city center.

Taylor's forces controlled the Mamba Point area and the Waterside market district leading to the Old Bridge, but streets downtown were empty apart from West African peacekeepers and a few civilians fetching water.

Battles in the city first began on April 6 after the ruling Council of State tried to arrest Johnson.

A 10-day truce collapsed on Monday when Taylor went to the Executive Mansion, the presidential complex, with a force of gunmen and was forced to flee with head of state Wilton Sankawulo under a hail of gunfire.

The current fighting is the first in the city center since 1990, and has been accompanied by the worst looting Monrovia has seen. Shops and homes have been stripped of everything of value, as gunmen race around the city in stolen aid vehicles painted with the names of their units.

"A few more days of discomfort is better than two, three, four more months of problems," Taylor said. "No government, not even this one, can exist in the face of lawlessness."

The Krahn fighters are not as well armed as Taylor's "government forces" but appear to be better marksmen.

Krahn reinforcements headed into town from the southeast, edging towards Taylor's home in the eastern suburbs.

Residents said Krahn fighters from the Armed Forces of Liberia barracks at Schieffelin, southeast of Monrovia, had cut off the main road junction at Paynesville Red Light before being pushed back by Taylor's forces.

Three US warships defending their embassy continued their show of force off the coast. The USS Guam, USS Trenton and USS Portland, lying off the West African coast for nearly two weeks, moved within sight of Monrovia after US Marines returned fire during battles in front of the embassy, killing three Liberians and wounding one.

US Assistant Secretary of State George Moose returned to Washington after failing to see Taylor or his fellow Council vice-chairman Alhaji Kromah.

West African leaders are due to meet in Accra next week to see what can be salvaged from a peace accord signed in Abuja last August, which set a timetable for disarmament and elections within a year. Taylor said in his radio address he would attend the summit.

Thirteen peace accords have so far failed to end the war which broke out in December 1989 when Taylor invaded from Ivory Coast.

UK's divided Tories face drubbing at local polls

LONDON (Reuter) – British Prime Minister John Major's ruling Conservatives braced themselves for a mauling yesterday as voting got under way in town hall elections that will provide the last big test of public opinion before a general election.

Voters are electing local authorities in England, but the ballot will be widely seen as a judgement of the national policies of the Conservatives, in power since 1979, and opposition leader Tony Blair's buoyant Labor party.

With a general election no more than a year away, the Conservatives have failed to claw back Labor's opinion poll lead of more than 20 percentage points and are expected to lose about half of the almost 1,200 council seats they are defending yesterday.

Major's lieutenants concede that renewed Conservative infighting over Europe, brought to the boil by the European Union's ban on British beef exports because of mad cow disease, has dashed hopes of presenting a united front to voters.

"Feuds rack Tories as poll defeat looms" was the headline in yesterday's *Independent* newspaper. "Tories face a further poll disaster" was the view of the pro-Conservative *Daily Telegraph*.

John Curtice, a lecturer in politics at Strathclyde University, said disaster loomed for the Conservatives because they were defending seats they won at a high point of their popularity in 1992.

Then, in the afterglow of Major's general election triumph just four weeks earlier, they polled 45 percent of the vote.

Since then the Conservatives' fortunes have plummeted and in last year's round of town hall elections they polled only 25 percent, their worst-ever.

To vindicate claims of electoral recovery going into the general election, Major would need to keep yesterday's losses to less than 500 seats and to improve on last year's percentage, Curtice wrote in *The Guardian* newspaper.

Ten million people – a quarter of the national electorate – are eligible to vote but the turnout in local elections rarely exceeds 40 percent, making it treacherous to extrapolate national trends.

Nevertheless last year's drubbing sapped Conservative morale and prompted Major to try to quell internal dissent by resigning the party leadership and inviting challengers to take him on.

Seven killed as Indian general elections continue

NEW DELHI (AP) – At least seven people were killed and thousands were under preventative detention yesterday, the second day of voting in India's month-long general elections.

Six people reportedly died in the northern state of Bihar. State authorities said four of the victims were killed in two separate gun battles between rival political groups. Two others died while making crude bombs. Press Trust of India news agency reported.

A policeman was killed and two were injured in a land mine explosion, and officials said Marxist rebels stole ballots from two polling stations in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, home of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Nearly one-third of India's 590 million electorate can vote for 202 parliament seats from 15 states and two territories yesterday in an election that will decide the shaky future of the governing Congress Party.

Another third of the electorate voted last Saturday. The bulk of voting will be over by next Tuesday, with counting beginning the next day.

Voting in embattled Jammu-Kashmir state, the first in seven years, will take place at the end of the month. The vote is being staggered to allow police to be deployed at voting stations across India, the world's largest democracy.

Early voting was reported to be brisk in Calcutta and other cities of the Marxist-governed state of West Bengal. But it was slow in villages where farmers took advantage of the morning coolness to work in their fields.

The turnout was moderate in Bihar, a stronghold of socialist Janata Dal. Voting also was held in Uttar Pradesh, India's largest state, and the industrial state of Maharashtra.

Police detained thousands of people in Andhra Pradesh in the south, Bihar and Maharashtra to prevent violence that often accompanies Indian elections. Detainees usually are released after the balloting ends.

Press Trust of India claimed 300,000 people were under preventative arrest, but gave no basis for the figure.

FBI-Freemen talks break down

JORDAN, Montana (Reuter) – Negotiations to end a five-week standoff between anti-government Freemen and the FBI broke down yesterday when the militants rejected two offers.

Former Green Beret James "Bo" Gritz and Montana's chief state prosecutor, John Connor, each made a pilgrimage to the remote Montana ranch to hear the Freemen's answer to offers they had made earlier this week.

Each returned disappointed, saying the Freemen had rejected their proposals. Gritz, who has been active in many right-wing causes, ended his mediation and left for Nevada. Connor said no new talks were planned.

Gritz told reporters that the Freemen had told him they had communicated with God. "God has placed an invisible barrier around their sanctuary that no foreign enemy can penetrate," he said he was told.

The breakdown of negotiations, which have gone on in various forms for several weeks, raised questions about what will happen next in the standoff, which is a test of the FBI's new, patient approach to confrontations with extremist groups. About 20 armed Freemen have taken refuge at the ranch, ringed by 100 FBI agents.

Connor said he offered to drop state charges against some of the Freemen if they surrendered to face federal charges. But the proposal was rejected.

South Africa constitution talks near collapse

CAPE TOWN (AP) – South Africa's new constitution could go to a nationwide vote after weary negotiators admitted yesterday they had reached virtual deadlock over issues of the apartheid era.

Party leaders said they would try once more for an agreement during talks the rest of the day yesterday, but there were fears a formal deadlock would have to be declared today.

That would show that despite two successful years under President Nelson Mandela's black-led government, the former apartheid state remained deeply divided over race-based issues.

"For me this is a very sad moment, because one had hoped we would never reach this stage," a somber Cyril Ramaphosa, chairman of the Constitutional Assembly, told party leaders gathered in what had been the parliamentary hall of the old white minority government. "I don't want to think that all of us have sat here for two years wasting our time preparing for a referendum."

Ramaphosa's announcement ended an all-night negotiating session that produced some key agreements but ground to a halt over education, labor and property clauses in a proposed bill of rights.

Under the interim constitution adopted in 1994, lawmakers could ask a panel of constitutional law experts to mediate if they reach a deadlock. If that failed, a national referendum could be called on the unresolved disputes.

The interim constitution set May 10 as the deadline for completing a final constitution. Failure to meet the deadline would reflect on the post-apartheid government's inability to coax consensus among diverse political parties who appear unwilling to compromise.

National Party negotiator Roelf Meyer said he still hoped agreement could be reached. But negotiators from the African National Congress, which won South Africa's first all-race election in 1994, were more pessimistic, and the small, black militant Pan Africanist Congress was already calling for a referendum.

Ramaphosa, an ANC member, said a national vote would be costly just as the country is trying to find money for development, and could exacerbate racial tensions just two years after the end of white minority rule.

The ANC accused the white-led National Party of trying to retain white privilege by refusing to back down on the constitutional disagreements.

"It is sad that we have reached a deadlock on three very apartheid issues," ANC negotiator Valli Moosa said.

The National Party wants a constitutional guarantee that children will be educated in their own language, allowing Afrikaners to continue running Afrikaans-language schools. The ANC opposes the guarantee, saying it would perpetuate the segregated apartheid-era education system that favored whites.

Security stepped up around hospitalized Hobart killer

HOBART (AP) – Worried by dozens of abusive telephone threats received by doctors and nurses, police have tightened security at a hospital treating a man accused of murdering 35 people in a shooting and arson spree.

Police chief John Johnson said yesterday he feared one of the callers might try to harm staff at the Royal Hobart Hospital or attack the accused gunman, Martin Bryant, 28, who suffered extensive burns.

"We know that when incidents like that occur it brings people out of the woodwork who have unusual personalities. That's why I will maintain the tightest security at the hospital," Johnson said.

Doctors said Bryant underwent plastic surgery yesterday. He will remain hospitalized for at least another week and could have more surgery before being transferred to a nearby prison.

Mongolia fires rage on

ULAN BATOR (Reuter) – Mongolian schoolboys joined thousands of soldiers to battle fires whipped up across the steppes by high winds yesterday as one injured teenager fought for his life in an Ulan Bator hospital.

"This afternoon the winds have been so strong that the fire is spreading in all directions extremely fast," Arkhangai army officer Damdinsuren said by telephone from the province, some 400-500 km west of the capital, Ulan Bator.

"The winds have whipped up such a fierce blaze that the firefighters can do nothing more than try to protect camps and cattle," he said.

The remains of three firefighters had been found in the region's Erdenemandal county, lying near their horses, he said.

"Only ashes were left," he said.

Scores of fires have roared across Mongolia's steppes in the past three weeks, and the three latest deaths raised the toll to 19, with 60 injured – most while battling the blazes.

The fires have left 700 people homeless and destroyed about 80,000 square km of forests and pastureland, officials have said. About 6,000 cattle, the lifeline of nomadic herders, are dead.

On the first anniversary of the passing of our beloved

ARMIN GOTTLIEB ז"ל

Founder of the Gottex Company

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His Daughters: Miriam Ruzow and Family
Judith Gottfried and Family
and the Management & Staff of Gottex in Israel and abroad.

Transportation will be provided, leaving at 4:15 p.m. from 4 Uri Street, Tel Aviv.

The unveiling of the tombstone of

YIZHAK ISAAC ERDYNAST ז"ל

will take place at the Mount of Olives Cemetery, Jerusalem, on Friday, May 10, 1996, at 11:00 a.m. A bus will leave from 73 Rehov Weizmann, Tel Aviv, at 9:30 a.m. and will stop at the Ramat Tamir Hotel, Ramot Road, Jerusalem, at 10:45 a.m., and proceed to the cemetery.

The Family

On the second *yahrzeit* of our dear

ALLAN DAVID (Dave) FROHLICH

we shall ascend to his grave on Monday, May 6, 1996, at 6:00 p.m. at the Segula cemetery, Petach Tikva

A shiur in his memory will be given on Sunday, May 5, 1996, at 8:00 p.m. (ma'ariv services), at 101A Einstein St., Haifa (Tel. 04-8345770)

The family

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our dearest and beloved

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née Fish

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هكذا من الاصل

Shalom, Hebron

History, ideology and reality are on a collision course as the IDF prepares to redeploy in the ancient city, **Jon Immanuel** reports

HEBRON on Wednesday. The Jewish Quarter is quieter than it has been for a long time. That is because no one is around. The younger settlers have gone to Jerusalem to express their concern that the government is about to abandon them to Arab wrath. "Hebron 1929?" asks one placard.

Within an hour, Hebron's casbah is closed after the vicious stabbing of Nissim Gidawi, a 72-year-old Yemeni-born Jew who shopped there for 23 years and spoke the language of local Palestinians.

A couple of settlers who have not yet left for Jerusalem overturn a dozen vegetable stalls in anger. The stall owners' only crimes were being near the scene of the crime and professing the same religion as the likely perpetrator. The assailant's only reason for stabbing an old man in the back was the victim's religion.

A couple of rats run through the piles of trampled cucumbers, tomatoes and oranges.

"Who are these people who incite hate, breed fear, kill hope? Think! Reject hate. Love Life," says the sweatshirt which Shula Cohen wears behind the cash desk of her grocery in Kiryat Arba.

Cohen has lived in Kiryat Arba for 20 years and says, "I like the air here." And she also claims that she doesn't know enough English to read what her T-shirt proclaims. "I liked the design." Her world is her shop and her family. Her ideology is *shalom al Yisrael*, peace on Israel.

Perhaps she is part of Kiryat Arba's silent majority who do not get involved. But she was one of the few to stay at home Wednesday, like Nahum and Rayeh Lekomovitz, a Russian secular immigrant couple who do the cooking at the Yeshiva of the Cave of the Patriarchs.

Slogans on sweatshirts, bumper stickers and walls play a large part in the lives of settlers renewing the Jewish presence in Hebron. The issues have been reduced to slogans which leave no room for self-questioning.

AGAINST THE reality of 400 Jews and 90,000 Arabs, and whatever rights this "foreign" landslide majority might have, the slogans win. It is pointed out that Jews were once a minority in Tel Aviv-Jaffa where biblical rights are weaker. Here, the government is abandoning Jewish lives, Jewish history. "Jerusalem is the Jewish heart, Hebron is Jewish roots," said National Religious Party leader Zevulun Hammer. The NRP's election slogans are papered around Kiryat Arba.

The epitaph on Baruch Goldstein's grave – that he died "for Torah and the people of Israel" – is a slogan that defies reason and insults Israel. But his wife claims he too was a victim of Arab terror because he was killed after he ran out of ammunition and was therefore defenseless. Even Kiryat Arba people who are appalled by his deed fail to connect it in anyway with the ideology which drives Hebron's settlers.

But the massacre is a logical conclusion from other slogans: The Arabs kill because they hate us. They only understand force. A strong government does not capitulate. Jewish blood is not expendable. Arabs out. Kill the Arabs.

The stabbings, the demonstrations, the overturned stalls have been part of the rhythm of Hebron life since a Jewish presence was reestablished. The massacre of 69 Jews by Arabs in 1929 spurred the desire to resettle in the area after the Six Day Way. The killing of six Jews by Arabs in 1980 laid the cornerstone of legalized Jewish settlement in Hebron.

The intensity of the struggle for control over Hebron, which Arabs call Al-Halil ("the beloved"; the Hebrew, Hevron, is from the root for "friend") has amounted to a competition over who is the favorite son of Abraham, after whom it is named.

Young children in Kiryat Arba are far more politically aware than their peers in other settlements and more radical in their statements to outsiders than adults. Grownups do not hesitate to bring children to their demonstrations, though.

All outsiders are suspected Arab lovers. Children as young as three or four have approached American church-sponsored Peacemakers and said, "I want to throw a stone at you," the Christians have reported. The most radical Jewish extremism, leading to the Goldstein massacre in the Ibrahimi Mosque, grew in its streets.

THE IDF redeployment in Hebron is inevitable and the arguments against it which are being made now are a last-ditch effort to prevent the inevitable. It would have taken place four months ago, but the government, fearful of problems, insisted on a three-month delay beyond the pullback from other Palestinian towns. It then extended the delay after the suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, and again until the Palestinian National Council voted to amend its radically anti-Israel covenant.

Now elections may postpone its completion, though the process is

(Continued on Page 8)



IDF soldiers escort two Palestinians who were arrested after the stabbing of a Kiryat Arba resident on Wednesday in Hebron's casbah. Fruit and vegetables litter the ground after settlers overturned Arab stalls in reaction to the attack. (Reuter)

Dealing with the demographics

Two leading Israeli geographers have produced a 'non-political' analysis of the territories, reports **Abraham Rabinovich**

ON the eve of final-status talks that are to decide the fate of Judea and Samaria, two Israeli geographers have drawn up an unofficial proposal under which Israel would seek to retain up to 18 percent of the territory, an area in which 86 percent of settlers presently live.

Based on a detailed analysis of Arab and Jewish population concentrations beyond the green line, the proposal by Prof. Elisha Efrat of Tel Aviv University and Prof. Yossi Katz of Bar-Ilan University provides fallback negotiating options that would scale down the amount of territory retained by Israel by up to 3 percent. First-priority areas include 67 of the existing 122 settlements and 52 percent of settlers.

In an interview this week, Efrat said that he and Katz had initiated the work in order to make available to the Israeli negotiators – should they wish to avail themselves of it – a detailed analysis by professional geographers of the demographic and territorial realities in Judea and Samaria.

Final-status talks are scheduled to start on Sunday and are to be concluded within three years.

"There is no geographer I know of who has been asked by the government to carry out such a study," said Efrat, formerly in charge of national and regional planning in the Interior Ministry.

"Our proposal is professional and non-political." Efrat said that he himself was inclined politically to Labor and Meretz while his Bar-Ilan colleague, a resident of Gush Etzion, was a supporter of the National Religious Party.

"Whichever government conducts final-status talks," say the authors in their proposal, "there is no doubt that the demographic realities will constitute a major factor in its considerations. We are analyzing the space they have in which to maneuver." Final-status talks get underway on Sunday and are to be concluded within three years.

A similar proposal was made last year by Dr. Yossi Alper, formerly of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, who suggested Israeli annexation of 11 percent of Judea, Samaria and Gaza, an area that would include 70 percent of Israeli settlers.

While Alper's map also related to the density of Israeli settlements on the ground, it was essentially a political-strategic document that called for annexation of areas abutting the Green Line, from Wadi Ara to Gush Etzion as well as the northern tip of the lower Jordan Valley.

The Efrat-Katz proposal is a demographic document that relates exclusively to relative densities of Arab and Jewish populations and not to strategic lines. It does not call for a general eastward shifting of the Green Line and it differs from the Alper proposals in that it envisages islands of Jewish settlement within the Palestinian area.

Some 30,000 of the 1.1 million Arabs in Judea and Samaria would be incorporated in the annexed areas under this proposal but the authors suggest the possibility of a "functional" arrangement whereby Israelis and Arabs residing in such ethnic islands would be linked politically to Israel and the Palestinian entity respectively.

The proposal calls for some minor amendments to the Oslo 2 agreement which presently divides the territory into three sectors – A, urban areas under full Palestinian control; B, rural areas under limited Palestinian control; and C, areas under full Israeli control.

"In some cases we advocate removing Arab villages from Area B status and incorporating them in areas of Israeli sovereignty," say the authors. These changes would incorporate about 20 villages inhabited by some 30,000 Arabs into Israeli territory.

The proposal does not relate to the Gaza Strip – in which some 800,000 Arabs and 4,000 Israeli settlers live in an area of 340 square kilometers. Nor does it relate to Jerusalem or to non-territorial factors like water resources.

Following are the major blocs of settlements envisaged by the authors falling under Israeli sovereignty:

– The Ariel bloc between the trans-Samaria road and the Kalkilya-Nablus road. "The proximity of this strip to the Green Line and its location between two main road arteries gives it an outstanding relative advantage," says the proposal. "Its annexation would require cancellation of Area B status for a number of Arab villages."

– Gush Etzion, including Efrat and Betar. Here too, annexation would involve incorporation of several Arab villages presently in Area B.

– The Hashmonaim bloc abutting the Green Line near Latrun.

– The lower Jordan Valley, except for the Jericho district, from the Allon Road to the river. This strip of Israeli sovereign territory would extend down the

(Continued on Page 8)

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An information session will be held on Monday, May 13, 1996, at 7.00 p.m. in the Leon Auditorium, the Recanati Building, Tel Aviv University, Ramat Aviv Campus.

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Registration for the International Executive MBA Program will close on June 7, 1996.
Additional details may be obtained by calling 972-3-6415123, or by fax on 972-3-6423587.

Comatose campaign lifts Labor hopes

... But the man in the street may have a surprise up his sleeve, a friend tells **Sarah Honig**

YOSSI Allon, a good friend and former neighbor, disagrees with my analysis of the election campaign, with media assessments and, most off all, with the polls.

"I have my own polls," Yossi tells me, "and mark my word, the result will be a big surprise." In case I've forgotten, Yossi eagerly reminds me that he correctly called all the recent elections and that in 1992, very early on, he told me that "the Likud will fail because people had decided to teach it a lesson. This time, these same people feel cheated by Labor and there will be a fierce backlash against it," he predicts.

Yossi's private "polls," it should be stressed, are unscientific and are conducted during lunch in the yard and at the drawing boards of the large electronics plant where he works as a technician.

"This is a good place to gauge moods, to take the pulse. We have people from different strata of society," he argues.

The plant was once Histadrut-owned, "but though we have been privatized, this has not altered the politics at the top. The same elite continues to rule the roost and they are all on the left.

"The workers," Yossi reports, "don't put much faith in the media, which they say seeks to brainwash them, and no one bought Peres's version on Grapes of Wrath. These people feel unsafe and alienated by the pundits who ignore them and chew the political fat only with their like-minded best friends.

"The 'experts' may look down on the blue-collar sector but they are the salt of the earth and they are keen on voting. They will not stay home on polling day," Yossi maintains, despite admitting that "this campaign is dormant. I have never seen anything this dull."

The perception of the campaign as incredibly sluggish is all which Yossi has in common with the media and the political insiders he frowns upon.

Perhaps the most telling indication is that giant public relations firms are complaining about slow business at a time in which they should be raking in the money. It is less than a month before polling day and there is no advertising boom.

The big firms which used to link up with a party and take over its campaign are now in the background, with the parties preferring to hire specific professionals ad hoc or on retainer.

The fact that PR offices are not buzzing with hectic activity reflects what could be seen as apathy, though the experts and Yossi insist that this is a crucial campaign, the most fateful ever.

With the TV showdown not yet featured, the battleground seems to be limited to major traffic intersections, especially during Friday afternoon rush hours. In both big blocs it is asserted that the TV war will be less significant this year because the public is no longer a captive audience, given the liberating effect of cable alternatives. This time the ads will not be the only show in town and the dominant subject of conversation the day after.

The parties reckon that more people drive via central junctions than will necessarily tune in to their TV pitches. So the idea this year is to evince "presence on the street," to drum up enthusiasm via youthful recruits. Thus key intersections are turned into a carnival-like hodgepodge of banners, posters and placards. Opposing messages – in identical blue and white – are juxtaposed in a crazy-quilt effect probably unseen anywhere else in the world. This is where any kind of bumper sticker can be had and teenage left- and right-wingers seek to outdo each other in distributing their wares.

So far, it is only the youngsters on the highways who are really embattled and even at that unimpressively. There have been a few mutual complaints about unfriendly encounters at ungodly hours of the morning in which one group of banner-hangers trades punches with the other. But in most cases even the protests about the other side's depraved violence have proved to be no more than a propagandistic fanning of the flames. Despite the most earnest efforts, they have not yielded any pyrotechnics.

All this, claims satisfied Labor campaign chief Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, "shows that the street is dead. This plays right into our hands. As a party in power we don't have to campaign. We have to govern. We create the issues and the opposition is left with reacting. They don't dictate the agenda." In other words, Ben-Eliezer is sounding the political axiom that no opposition ever wins, but that governments lose.

This, no doubt, is the logic behind Labor information campaign head Haim Ramon's oft-expressed wish that "we could go to the polls without a campaign." To his mind "the name of the game is avoiding mistakes. The party which dominates the political agenda will win if it doesn't grossly err. The advantage is Labor's."

He admits that the Likud has had a perfect record without a single blunder and an astute appeal to the floating voters via a moderate campaign line. "But they don't control the agenda," he insists.

In the Likud it is claimed Ramon's strategy is dangerous for his party, precisely because this might end up being the shortest campaign ever. The campaign for the June 23, 1992, elections began in mid-May of that year. In 1988 the campaign lasted from June to November. Now in early May there is still no action despite the May 29 finish.

This will make any slipup so soon before the fateful day doubly disastrous. The slightest marginal misstep could be crucial because there will be no time for correction. Thus in Labor the question now is whether a pre-election pullout from Hebron can counter the possible erosion in Arab support for Peres as a result of his Grapes of Wrath.

Labor's paramount objective for the next three weeks is to hold onto the support it already has and to avoid any upsets.

A campaign which produces prodigious yawns is best for the party in the lead, Ben-Eliezer contends, "and according to the polls Peres is ahead. "The campaign is boring because the voters have already decided."

Which is just what Yossi says: "If this campaign ever comes out of its coma, it will be too late to matter. Most people have already made up their minds." But Yossi arrives at a different conclusion than Ben-Eliezer.

"Four years ago the workers were fed up with the Likud and Rabin appeared like a solid hawkish alternative," he recalls. "Today what I hear in the cafeteria tells me that Labor, despite its cockiness, is in for a rude surprise. Those people who switched away from the Likud last time feel deceived and they will take vengeance. If the polls don't show this, it may be an inherent flaw."



(Continued from Page 7)

likely to start within days to ensure that the next government, if the Likud wins, does not stop it. Its day has come.

Wednesday's stabbing has supplied fuel for another last-ditch attempt to prevent the implementation of Oslo 2.

Former Likud defense minister Ariel Sharon arrived at the casbah two hours after the attack on Gidawi and said, "Stop!" He insisted that the government annex the Jewish quarter of Hebron to Kiryat Arba and forge a continuous area of self-government and settlement of 7,000 Israelis. This is precisely what the government is doing.

He pointed to the hills around the city and showed how the Jewish quarter could not be defended if terrorists began shelling from the hills above.

"It is not just a danger to residents of Hebron and Kiryat Arba. It endangers the lives of soldiers," he said, comparing the situation with Lebanon where last week's arrangements permit Hizbullah to shell Israeli troops in the security zone as much as they like.

HEBRON

The Jewish mindset in Hebron is that no peace process is at work, only a war process in which Israel is giving up vital strategic positions. The Jewish Quarter can be defended only by controlling the Arab three-quarters.

THE RESULT of the IDF pullback, as explained by some settlers, is that they will be free to deal with the situation as they see fit. "The army should leave so we can get on with the job" was how the matter was expressed a few months ago.

Soldiers are not sanguine about the new arrangements. But in fact there will be many more soldiers patrolling the Jewish quarter once they are released from the task of controlling 75,000 of the town's 90,000 Arabs, Foreign Minister Ehud Barak said yesterday. An estimated 15,000 Arabs will remain under Israeli control, according to Palestinian estimates, and it extends beyond Jewish-populated areas. It will, in effect, become the world's only divided city after Nicosia with whom it shares the deadly mix of national and religious animosities. It is easy to see that the two populations will first avoid each other's areas of jurisdiction and then have no choice as barriers become increasingly more permanent after every violent attack.

Nicosia is peaceful today. If more soldiers had been in the Hebron casbah when Gidawi was stabbed they may have prevented the stabbing or at least prevented the escape of the attacker, which would have been more effective than pursuing him fruitlessly around the warrens of Hebron as they are currently free to do.

The redeployment and the bypass road to Kiryat Arba strengthen Israel's control of the Jewish quarter, including the Cave of the Patriarchs, the only part of Hebron to which it can historically lay claim.

It is fraught with risks, but what happens there in the mother of all settlements will provide valuable lessons for solving the problems of Jerusalem and the more conventional settlements.

Netanyahu wows Ra'anana – with his English

Binyamin Netanyahu is really in his element in English. Yet when he appeared before an English-speaking audience in Ra'anana this week, he offered to speak in Hebrew, only to have the hall resound with horrified shouts of: "No, no." So Netanyhu agreed "just this time" to oblige, but on condition that on his next visit, it would be in Hebrew. I wouldn't bet on it. Both he and the audience had too good a time. The next day they were still talking in superlatives around Ra'anana about his appearance.

This audience was no less affectionate than the one which greeted Netanyahu in near ecstasy recently during Beit Shean's Mimouna celebrations. The two events, however, were worlds apart.

Though here too more people showed up than anticipated, no one pushed and no voices were raised. It was all refined and very proper indeed.

Everyone stood in line most courteously and waited their turn to get into the air-conditioned hall. The ladies were veritable fashion plates, as they sat around tables decked with peach-colored cloths and laden with jugs of cold juices, hot coffee and pretty little cakes.

There were many more people than seats at the Puinat Hasharon hall, so the considerable overflow audience patiently settled for standing room during the entire affair. There were none of the North African chants and whoops, but lots of South African applause and an occasional "hear, hear." If in Beit She'an it was David Levy's turf, this crowd treated Netanyahu like a landsman.

Even the little in-jokes went over big. When he sought to explain the importance of the Golan as Israel's eyes, Netanyahu asked one of his listeners how much his glasses cost. The man said they set him back NIS 1,000. At this Netanyahu exclaimed: "That's too much. You should change optometrists. I can get it for you wholesale." The audience lapped it up.

With this audience it was possible to discuss the thesis that there is one sort of peace you strike with democracies (because you know their leaders can't go to war arbitrarily without the risk of being voted out), and another kind of peace with dictators, where you need deterrents to shore up the deal. When Netanyahu resorted to the US-Canadian example, he asked if there were Canadians in the audience. They cheerfully identified themselves. The American didn't need to be singled out, because when US President Bill Clinton's name was mentioned, they booed and protested what they regarded as his interference in the Israeli elections.

TALKING ABOUT the peace with Jordan, Netanyahu inquired if there were Londoners in the hall, and told them that they wouldn't believe what kind of a house King Hussein has in their town. What the audience loved most of all were Netanyahu's declarations that if elected, he will "make sure that security is not compromised and that there will be no fear on the streets." When he said he would close down Orient House in Jerusalem, the generally politely composed audience rose to its feet with rhythmic thunderous applause.

With this bunch Netanyahu touched a responsive chord when he accused his opponents of having lost their belief in the Jewish cause. "We believe in Zionism," he exclaimed, and again his audience paid him back with a lengthy standing ovation.

Netanyahu complained of there being "no real free market of information in this country," and of discrimination against him in the state media, which he promised to privatize if he wins. He lambasted Israeli bureaucracy and opined that "this economy needs deregulation, privatization and the releasing of land to the market."

He brought up the case of his brother-in-law, one of his wife Sara's three brothers, who had to go to Sunnyvale, California to develop an idea in computers because here his initiative was stifled. While this would have been a nonstarter in Beit She'an, the English-speakers nodded appreciatively and Sara, seated in the audience, beamed as the praise her husband heaped on her brother.

If Netanyahu had not had to leave, his audience would have stayed with him all night. But, he explained, he had promised to take Sara out to dinner at Ra'anana's kosher McDonald's.

S.H.

DEMOGRAPHICS

(Continued from Page 7)

Dead Sea coast to Mitzpe Shalem. Alper, in his proposal, had called for a transition period of some 15 years of Israeli rule in the lower Jordan Valley but advocated its eventual handover to the Palestinians.

– A strip between the settlements of Nili and Paduel, about six kilometers east of the Green Line and another strip, 15 kilometers east of the Green Line, between Dolev and Halamish. Both "island" strips are west of Ramallah.

– The Givon bloc, a thin strip extending northwards from Jerusalem between Nebi Samwil and the Beit Horon road.

– The Beit El bloc east of Ramallah extending from northern Jerusalem to Ofra.

This narrow strip is closely pressed by areas of heavy Arab population.

– Ma'aleh Adumim, a city of 19,000 which would be linked to Jerusalem.

– The Reihan bloc abutting the Green Line north of Jenin.

In all, the areas recommended by Efrat and Katz for annexation contain 1,062 square kilometers, or 18.2 percent of the territory of Judea and Samaria.

These areas include 89 settlements, or 73 percent of those presently existing. The population of these settlements numbers 105,000, or 86 percent of the total presently living in the area.

ELECTIONS 1996

THE ISSUES IN ENGLISH

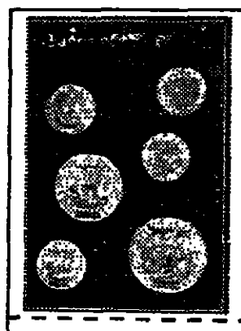
Come and hear each party present its platform.

Friday, May 10, 10:00 a.m. TEL AVIV	ZOA HOUSE Corner Rehov Daniel Frisch/Ibn Gabirol Yossi Beilin (Labor), Dan Meridor MK (Likud)
Wednesday, May 15, 7:30 p.m. NETANYA	Beit Yisrael Community Center 19 Yehuda Hanassi
Thursday, May 16, 7:30 p.m. TEL AVIV	FOR YOUNG ENGLISH SPEAKERS Beit Daniel, 62 Rehov Bnei Dan
Sunday May 19, 7:30 p.m. RA'ANANA	Mofet Hechal Hatarbut 4 Eliezer Yaffe
Sunday, May 19, 8:00 p.m. BEERSHEBA	Jewish Agency Building Rehov Henrietta Szold
Tuesday May 21, 7:30 p.m. JERUSALEM	Laromme Hotel Rehov Jabotinsky
Tuesday, May 21, 7:30 p.m. TEL AVIV	ZOA House Rehov Daniel Frisch/Ibn Gabirol
Tuesday, May 21, 7:30 p.m. KARMIEL	Megidim Matnass Rehov Hapisga Hama'aravit
Wednesday, May 22, 7:30 p.m. NAHARIYA	Tzavta Hall 42 Rehov Herzl
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Pacts and backslaps as election nears

Peres and Clinton heaped praise on each other in Washington as they forwore interference in each other's reelection campaigns, Hillel Kuttler reports

FOUR more years! Four *more yet!*" 3,000 people chanted Monday night as US President Bill Clinton waved to the crowd in the vast Washington Hilton Hotel ballroom.

This was a run-of-the-mill campaign rally, not with Israeli and American flags arranged alongside each other, and not with Prime Minister Shimon Peres standing at Clinton's side.

Four more years are exactly what both hope to win in this year's election in both countries. The leaders gave enough signals that they also wanted each other to stay in office through the year 2000.

While Israeli security cooperation and the future of the peace process were central themes of Peres's visit, the campaigns were not far from their minds.

In two major joint events this week – their speeches Sunday night to the annual conference of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee and Tuesday's White House signing of a counter-terrorism accord – Clinton and Peres praised one another endlessly.

Peres especially so. Before AIPAC, he bestowed anointed Clinton honorary citizenship of Israel for being Jerusalem's greatest-ever friend in the White House, for shedding a tear and offering Israelis a shoulder to cry on after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and this year's terror attacks.

At Tuesday's ceremony he said: "You cannot lead the camp of freedom unless you have a leader of great inspiration and outstanding capacity. In my own judgment, Bill Clinton has this great capacity to inspire the whole free world with his ideas, with his determination, with his capacity to distinguish what is right and what is wrong, what is immediate and what is long-range....

"I feel myself very lucky to see a person like him standing ahead and trying to lead the whole world to peace."

AT ONE point during his three-day US visit, Peres feigned ignorance of Republican challenger Robert Dole's name before smilingly saying the Senate majority leader was in fact a good friend of Israel.

Clinton praised Peres at AIPAC for "carrying through the important work of peace with security," being a "true and reliable friend" of the US and for showing, in the aftermath of Rabin's death, that he could "rise to this moment."

He even pronounced Peres's recent book "remarkable" and made a pitch for "a certain percentage kickback" for saying so.



Prime Minister Shimon Peres and US President Bill Clinton sit down simultaneously right before Tuesday's signing of a counter-terrorism accord at the White House. (Reuter)

Clinton asserted that the events this week were in no way meant to influence Israel's voters.

"In democracies we schedule elections, and that's a good thing. It reminds everybody that the people are in charge," Clinton said when asked about electioneering. "But I think it is not only appropriate, it is virtually necessary for the prime minister to come here at this time in the wake of recent events....

"The US has always said that we do not interfere in the internal decisions of other countries. Israel and the US are friends and allies, and that will be the case no matter who is elected. [Israelis] have shown pretty good judgment for quite a long while now, and I'm sure that the prime minister would join me in saying that they're in the driver's seat on that question, not me and not anyone else."

Peres's first order of business upon landing here Sunday was signing an accord with Defense Secretary William Perry providing for joint development of the Nautilus missile-defense system using laser technology. The accord was in part a direct response to the recent wave of Katyusha rockets falling on northern Israel.

The counter-terrorism initiative also dates to other pivotal, recent events – the February and March suicide bombings in Israel – in the aftermath of which Peres's lead over Likud challenger Binyamin Netanyahu sank.

Peres, Clinton and Perry said all the right things about the accords representing yet another notch in the bedpost of the US-Israel love fest of mutual values and strategic cooperation.

WITH YASSER Arafat jetting into town for a White House meeting just as Peres was leaving for Paris, the peace process was never out of mind. *The Washington Post* opined the morning of the signing of the counterterrorism accord that the Clinton administration's Middle East diplomacy "can move forward only if Mr. Peres and his Labor Party prevail in elections on May 29."

Clinton's support for Israel during Operation Grapes of Wrath is a "sort of American indulgence [that] translates inside Israel into direct support for Mr. Peres at the polls," the paper said.

And, the paper's lead editorial added, the agreements announced here "can help Mr. Peres face down the unwarranted but still damaging charge at home that he is soft on security."

Let the races begin.

Torn between community and party

Following the Kana tragedy, Nadia Hilou, Labor's leading Arab lady, has a tough job on her hands, Ilanit Yudelman reports

OPERATION Grapes of Wrath brought Labor's election campaign in the Arab sector to a grinding halt.

Even before the recriminations of the fighting in Lebanon on Israel's Arabs were known was clear to Minister Uzi Baram, chairman of Labor's drive for Arab vote, that this was not time to go campaigning for Labor or for Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Then the reactions started pouring in from the Arab community, confirming Baram's fears and indicating that unprecedented rift had developed between Israel's Arabs and Peres, who until now had always been for them "Mr. Peace."

Now the Israeli Arabs' favorite leader was responsible for the closure on the Palestinians in the territories and the bombing their brethren in Lebanon.

The tragic bombing of an ambulance, the killing of the family in Nabatiya and the Kana disaster, in which more than 100 Lebanese civilians were killed, sent shock waves through the Israeli Arab community.

For Nadia Hilou, the first Arab woman to be elected to Labor's Knesset list, this was a difficult, almost impossible period to go through.

Hilou, a prominent member of Jaffa's Arab community and in charge of wining the Arab women's vote in Labor's campaign for the Arab sector, was torn between her natural solidarity with the Arab community, and her loyalty to the party.

As an Arab woman, she is living the crisis in the most immediate way, in her everyday contact with the Arab residents. The anger in Jaffa is still strong. Arab friends and acquaintances argue with her, some even attacked her for being part of a party which could be responsible for such a thing.

"People are upset. There was a lot of talk about removing the traditional Arab support for Peres. People said to me, look what your prime minister is doing. How can you be a part of that?

"The trouble is, I can understand them. I feel the same way. I share the pain and horror at seeing innocent people die.

"I felt the same after the suicide bombs in Dizengoff and Jerusalem. Then too, as Arabs, we had a horrible time. As part of the people of this country, as part of the community I live in. That's the double hardship of being an Israeli Arab."

Hilou, who was elected number 37 on Labor's Knesset list in the primaries, insisted on running on the national, more prestigious list, rather than on the "minorities" slot reserved for an Arab candidate.

She is not only the first and only Arab woman on Labor's Knesset list, she is the only Arab woman Knesset candidate on any party's list.



Hilou: People said to me, look what your prime minister is doing. How can you be a part of that?

She defeated five Arab candidates contending in the national primaries, and points out proudly that she was the only one who received votes from both Arab and Jewish party members.

This week Hilou joined Labor's concerted efforts to restore the Arab sector's support in Peres and the Labor Party.

It was not an easy task, she admitted, after a harrowing meeting with Arab leaders in Shfaram.

"The reactions were extremely sharp and emotional. But we have to overcome our emotions and see that Prime Minister Shimon Peres is the leader who made peace and will continue the process.

"I too found it hard to overcome my feelings when I saw the children's bodies, the blood and the victims.

"But I refuse to give up. I know I've chosen the right way and I'm not going to change my mind."

The Arabs Hilou has been meeting also realize there is no alternative to Peres. "He's the only candidate possible for Israeli Arabs, if we want to advance the peace process on the one hand, and obtain equality and narrow the social gaps on the other," she said.

"I tell them if there's any hope for us, it's Peres's government. Everybody knows the peace process requires two equal partners, two nations, if it is to work. It's clear the Likud does not regard the Palestinians as a partner.

"How can you have peace without open communication and recognizing the other side as an equal?"

Hilou, 42, was born and raised in Jaffa to a large family whose members are spread in Jaffa, Ramle and Lod. Her husband comes from Rama in Galilee, from a family spanning Haifa, Nazareth, Rama and Kafr Yasif.

She graduated with an M.A. from Tel Aviv University, where she published the first research of its kind on juvenile delinquency, and its effects on families, friends and environment in a mixed town like Jaffa.

Hilou is the director of the Hirsch Center for children in Jaffa, a unique project specializing in providing integral health, education, culture and welfare services to both Jewish and Arab children and parents. The center also gives parenting training courses.

Hilou lectures university students on social work, guides youth and parent groups, develops Arab-Jewish study programs and is involved in a variety of public activities.

Among other things, she is a member of the Socialist Workers' Union, the National Council for the Welfare of Children, the Municipal Women's Council to Promote Women's Status, the Jaffa Arab Women's Forum and the Experts Committee for Needy Youth. She is also a member of the board of the Tel Aviv Arts Foundation.

A determined and ambitious woman, the slim, honey-blonde Hilou joined Labor a year ago, believing she could do more to promote both Arabs and Arab women's interests in Israeli society as a Labor Knesset member, than as a member of one of the Arab parties.

Her main task is to convince Arab women, who in the past have tended to vote in much lower numbers than their male counterparts, to go to the polls this time round – preferably for Peres and Labor, of course.

"I may be the only Arab woman on Labor's list. But the Arab parties have no Arab women candidates at all. Arab women can see what I've done and where I got to as part of Labor. I believe most of them will vote en masse for Peres and Labor," she asserts.

She has four daughters. The eldest is studying social work and the second is about to study law. Both participated in youth delegation debates about the Arab-Jewish conflict abroad. The two younger ones, 11-year-old twins, are showing promise as violinists.

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Leaders look to Lebanon's 'independent' future

Presidents Clinton and Chirac both want to promote greater Lebanese independence from Syria, David Makovsky reports from Washington

WHAT a difference a fortnight makes.

Just two weeks ago, Prime Minister Shimon Peres was ordering the shelling of Lebanon. This week, while visiting the US, he was touting Lebanese reconstruction. Moreover, he insisted that even in the aftermath of the carnage, the country had new prospects of freedom from Syrian domination.

Peres certainly had an interest in talking about Lebanon's future rather than its past, as he wanted a feel-good visit to the US on the eve of the May 29 elections. And his approach succeeded.

Last week Peres was being called the killer of Kana by Arabs who did not want to hear explanations about errant shelling; this week, he was touted as a "peacemaker" by President Bill Clinton, American media, movie stars such as Richard Gere and other celebrities at a dinner hosted by the Israeli Consulate in New York. Clinton even blamed Hizbullah for firing rockets so close to a civilian area, a sympathetic defense which Peres happily proclaimed to be "unprecedented."

Speaking to reporters this week after meeting Clinton, a buoyant Peres spoke at length about how Israel will help put together an international consortium to help reconstruct Lebanon. "Just like we help put together a group for the Palestinians," Peres said confidently. But he admitted that Israel is not even close to deciding on putting together the shape of its contribution.

Yet Peres made clear that Lebanese reconstruction would have far-reaching political – not just economic – importance, as it would work to pry Lebanon loose from Syrian domination. Power would follow the money.

The prime minister insisted that the "most important diplomatic" discovery emerging from his trip was learning from both President Bill Clinton and France's President Jacques Chirac that both think more can be done to promote Lebanon's independence.

The significance of a free Lebanon would indeed have crucial significance for Israel in southern Lebanon. If Lebanon did not have to look over its shoulder to Damascus, it would enable the Lebanese Army to deploy in the south of the country, and disarm Hizbullah just as it disarmed several militias in the country. Then the IDF could pull out of the Security Zone, Israeli officials say, and a peace treaty could be reached over a cup of coffee.

HOWEVER, desirability is not the same as feasibility. Peres gets annoyed when journalists ask how such a scenario of Lebanese independence will come true with 35,000 to 40,000 Syrian soldiers on Lebanese soil.

While Peres cites Clinton as favoring greater Lebanese independence, senior officials in Clinton's administration are dismissive of Peres's notion that it can occur as a result of the international assistance promised by US-brokered diplomacy last week. One senior administration official asked rhetorically, "What would be in it for Syria to allow Lebanon to be pried loose by the world, especially while nothing is happening on Syria's own peace track with Israel?"

Syria, which went to the Madrid Conference believing no other Arab partner could defy its will, only to see the Palestinians and Jordan cut their own deals with Israel, is not about to let Beirut slip through its fingers. A year ago, when the Lebanese even hinted at the possibility of the Lebanese track moving ahead of stalled Syrian talks, Syrian officials arrived in Beirut and quickly quashed this notion. This view has been echoed by Lebanese US-based scholar Fouad Ajami, who has said his native land will be the last to enjoy the fruits of peace.

The US administration official confirmed the widespread view that Syria wants to negotiate the future of the Golan while Israel is under fire in southern Lebanon. Specifically, Damascus views Hizbullah as an irreplaceable tool for Damascus's peace talks with Israel. Syria believes that, without an uncomfortable Lebanese intifada of sorts, Israel will not give up the Golan.

Syria therefore continues to dangle the notion of a package deal which would include the disarming of Hizbullah as the final prize for Israel ceding the Golan. Damascus tells US officials it is confident that it could muzzle the Iranian-backed Hizbullah should there be a peace treaty with Israel, since Iran has promised Syria not to undermine any deal that Damascus works out with Israel.

But it is hard to fathom the incentive that Syria would have in loosening its grip on Beirut. And it remains unclear why Peres believes, in the aftermath of Grapes of Wrath, that the prospects for greater Lebanese independence from Syria have grown.

One possible theory suggests that Peres, preferring long-term hope to prescriptions for short-term results, seeks to persuade Beirut, as it surveys the wreckage of Grapes of Wrath, that there is light at the end of the tunnel. But Lebanon is unlikely to be convinced.

Another possible theory is that Peres believes what he says, and thinks that the experts are wrong. It should be noted that within a week of the signing of the Oslo accords in September 1993, Peres was pressing the notion that Jordan would be able to defy Damascus and make a separate peace with Israel. At the tim US officials, while big believe – and ire-less activists on behalf of – Middle East pea scoffed at the idea as being realistic.

The Jordan e rience has given Peres eve more confidence than befo In general, Peres loves to s "I an not impressed by the cepti s and their sea of skept m," and to ask rhetorically, "her were all the Kremlinol sts predicting the fall of Kremlin? None of them sa the Soviet Union would fal Who needs them?"

Yet the presen o Syrian troops in Lebano means that the Beirut situati cannot be compared to Amm s defiance of Damascus.

Despite Prime ister Rafik Hariri's efforts rebuild Beirut, to make it pulsating center of Middle life, as it was in the early the country remains ndwiched between the powe countries of Syria and Israe

No wonder Lebanese scholar Ajami s about his country: "Whene it turns a corner, it meets itself."

Katyusha syndrome takes its toll on Kiryat Shmona

The Upper Galilee's largest city is no longer a ghost town but life is not yet back to normal, David Rudge writes

KIRYAT Shmona, a veritable ghost town during Operation Grapes of Wrath, came back to life this week after the last rockets fell on the front-line city just a few minutes before the cease-fire deadline took effect at 4 a.m. last Saturday.

Just four hours later, the all clear was sounded and residents who had remained behind throughout the fighting began to emerge from bomb shelters and take a deep breath of fresh air before going to check their homes.

Families who left the city and were housed in hotels and IDF rest and recreation centers in Ashkelon, Tel Aviv, Netanya and Acre – or had been staying with family or friends elsewhere beyond the Katyusha line – began the trek home.

By Saturday evening, after the end of Shabbat, the trickle of returnees had become a steady flow. Nearly 20,000 of Kiryat Shmona's 24,000 inhabitants left the city during the course of the operation, as the Katyusha rockets continued to fall.

By Sunday afternoon, most of the evacuees had returned. The streets, which were deserted for 18 days, were once again full of vehicles. Shops, offices and factories opened for business and the sidewalks bustled with people, some carrying suitcases, others shopping bags.

People were once again walking, riding, driving in Kiryat Shmona. Signs of life and a return to normality, except for the scars of war: damage to factories, holes blasted in the roofs of apartment blocks, a day nursery, homes without windows and walls of buildings pockmarked with shrapnel holes, solar heaters lying burned and twisted on the ground.

Over a quarter, and maybe as much as a third, of the homes in Kiryat Shmona were hit in one way or another by Katyushas. Scores of vehicles were damaged, as well as the 1,300 buildings. The cost of repairing the damage – tens of millions of shekels – does not include the additional cost of lost income for wage earners, lost production of factories and farmers and the damning effect on tourism.

But there are other disturbing effects than just the cost in terms of hard cash.

There is no way of calculating the price in terms of emotional strain, stress and trauma, of the residents themselves, or how long it will take for them to fully recuperate.

Only a few people were actually wounded and only one of them – Hanni Himi, wife of Kiryat Shmona's deputy mayor – was seriously hurt. She is still detained in Haifa's Rambam Hospital, where she is reported to be making progress. The vast majority of the 127 people dealt with by Magen David Adom – over 100 of them in Kiryat Shmona – in the days prior to and during Operation Grapes of Wrath were treated for shock.

But, as with earthquakes, there are aftershocks, and these are still reverberating. The shock, for instance, of families returning to Kiryat Shmona to find their homes damaged and, in some cases, made uninhabitable.

The last two rockets which hit the town a few minutes before the 4 a.m. cease-fire deadline on Saturday caused further extensive damage. One of the rockets blasted through the roof of a two-story apartment block into the stairwell. One of the top-floor flats was completely destroyed and another below belonging to Yair and Mazal Eliyahu was badly damaged.

The couple and their three young children had been staying at Ramat Efal near Tel Aviv throughout the operation. They returned once to their home and Mazal had wanted to stay, but Yair persuaded her it would be safer in Ramat Efal until an agreement and cease-fire were reached.

"Even then Mazal wanted to come back, but I could see the negotiations were taking time and then Shabbat came, so I said we would wait at least until the end of Shabbat," said Yair. "If we had come back on Friday, there would have been a disaster. The room where the children would have been sleeping was hit.

It would have been terrible. It doesn't bear thinking about," he said, with tears welling up in his eyes.

The problem facing the family and their neighbor whose home was destroyed in the last rocket attackis how to manage for another few weeks until repairs are completed.

"Somebody who lives outside the framework of what is termed normal life has a problem," said Yair. "It's not easy. We have been in that situation for over six weeks, if you take into account the rocket attacks and warnings to go into bomb shelters that preceded the operation.

"We have been moved from one place to another, first to Haifa, then back here and then to Ramat Efal, with all our equipment in the car," he said. "In fact, it's still in the car. We can't unpack, because we can't move back into our home – not in this state. We are still refugees."

Yair and Mazal spent tens of thousands of shekels renovating their home – including new floor tiles, bathroom and kitchen. "We didn't even get a chance to enjoy it," said Mazal, surveying the broken bathroom and kitchen and the cracked walls and ceiling in the living room.

"I just want to get everything fixed as soon as possible, so we can get the children back settled at home and into a routine," said Mazal, sitting down and crying.

A neighbor interrupts, patting her on the back. "It's only walls and tiles. *Kapara*. Thank God nobody was hurt. That's all that matters," she said consolingly.

"I know," replied Mazal, shaking her head and drying her eyes. "I know."

A few minutes beforehand an argument had erupted among the neighbors. Nobody quite knew what it was all about. A man from another flat nearby tried to calm the situation.

"These are the aftershocks," he said. "This is the real trauma. They have to get the carpenters in, the builders, glaziers, the plumbers to get the water fixed and electricians and get quotes for the cost of the work and get it all approved by the property tax people. It's a big mess. They are just letting off steam. It's only natural."

For the time being, Yair, 30, a foreman, and Mazal, also 30, and their three children – aged three, four and six – will continuing staying at their "new home" at Kibbutz Hagoshrim until repairs on their home are completed and they can move back.

But even that won't end the trauma and emotional stress. Yair and Mazal, like their neighbors and many – if not the majority – of Kiryat Shmona's residents are not convinced that the agreement reached to end the fighting will prevent more rocket attacks in the future.

"I hope that that the rocket that hit our homes here will be the last one ever to fall on Kiryat Shmona or anywhere else in Galilee, but I have to say that I don't have any real faith in this agreement," said Yair. "The 'partners' to this agreement are not serious about adhering to it. The fact is that they [Hizbullah] are already issuing threats and warnings. I believe that within six months or so we will be back to the same 'routine of life' – of going into bomb shelters, work one day and not the next, and more rocket attacks – that existed prior to the operation."

Despite his pessimism about the future, Yair stressed he had no intention of leaving Kiryat Shmona. "We won't abandon our home or our town. There were difficult times for people in Tel Aviv [during the Scud missile attacks]. If everybody were suddenly to abandon their homes we wouldn't have a state," he said.

Not everybody in Kiryat Shmona, however, shares the same view about staying there. Privately, municipality officials are concerned that many families will leave in the wake of what has been described as the worst rocket attacks in the city's history.

Shula Azaria has worked as secretary at the Korczak elementary school for many years. She was glad to see the children and the teachers when the schools reopened, but she is uncertain about the future.

"I'm very happy that we are getting back to normal, although my husband and our youngest daughter, who will soon be 11, are still in a state of shock," said Azaria. "My daughter didn't want to go to school, but I insisted that we have to get back to normal. It's not easy, however, not after so many rockets fell on the town, damaging nearly one in every three homes.

"Ours was the second house to be hit at the beginning," she said. "I was standing by the window when the rocket fell and I saw the water heater explode in front of my eyes. I was saved by a miracle. My husband dragged me to the floor, and all the windows were blown out. I was hospitalized for 24 hours, because I was in a state of shock, and then we went to stay with our other daughter who lives in Haifa.

"I have lived here since 1955, and it's difficult to even think about leaving, but my husband is seriously considering it now," Azaria said. "Maybe there will be peace and quiet and he will reconsider. Maybe the situation will change. We'll just have to wait and see."

And there are still more scars and aftershocks wh have yet to surface. This was ought to light during a short in ew with two teenage girls one day they returned to schoo

At one point a r banged, and then a teach accidentally knocked a chair a table. Both the girls jumped oluntarily and stared at the sou of the noise. In that fleeting mo it was clear that they, like m of the town's residents, are s suffering from the aftereffec of what has become known the Katyusha syndrome.



A Kiryat Shmona resident inspects the damge to his home from a Katyusha. (Avihopira/Israel Sun)

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Hate, propaganda and disinformation on the Internet

EYE ON THE MEDIA
DAVID BAR-ILAN

INTERNET, a relatively new medium, offers the kind of access to information undreamt of only a few years ago. *The Jerusalem Post*, for example, has more than three million "visits" to its web site every month.

But Internet's easy accessibility is not an unadulterated blessing. It makes the dissemination of misinformation, disinformation and hate propaganda easier than ever.

The following is from a new publication of the Bnai Brith Anti-Defamation League (ADL), *The Web of Hate*:

"A recent study by Nielsen Media Research suggests that about 24 million adults in the US and Canada use the Internet ... The combination of relatively low cost and a growing audience makes the Web enticing to millions of users. But another feature appeals to the purveyors of hate: They have control of their message.

"Web sites are electronic 'magazines' published by the site owner. It is impossible for someone surfing the Web to know if any particular organization, other than one with a national reputation, is credible; both the reputable and the disreputable are on the Web. The typical 'Web surfer' does not have the experience or knowledge to distinguish among them...

"Fictitious history, spurious sociology and tortured 'logic' can seem more credible when presented without opposition. The Holocaust deniers, for example, crave legitimacy; they intensely want Holocaust denial to be accepted as historical "revisionism" and not neo-Nazi fiction, and so they give their arguments a quasi-scholarly gloss to make them seem seductively plausible. In the controlled environment of Web sites, people cannot expose the tendentious claims of the deniers, cannot expose the well-documented antisemitism and neo-Nazi sympathies of the leaders of the movement or their reliance on the tainted testimony of biased 'experts.'"

The ADL booklet contains some shocking examples of hate mongering; bigoted tracts from the Ku Klux Klan, fabricated studies from Holocaust deniers, poisonous sermons from "pastors" purveying medieval antisemitism. What it does not tackle in this issue is the varied, prolific and altogether staggering amount of virulent Palestinian propaganda available on Internet. If a new era in Arab-Israeli relations has begun, it is not reflected on the Internet.

A site named Palestine's Islamic Homepage offers "The Story of the Zionist Occupation of Palestine as told by Muslim Students Association at the University of Texas at Austin." There is little new in it, but the enormity of the lies is still breathtaking.

Following are some morsels:

"Gush Emunim settlers in the Hebron area, many of them American-born, have terrorized the Palestinian population for more than a decade, throwing bombs at their houses and bulldozing their citrus and olive trees. Since the uprising began, settlers have kidnapped and tortured Palestinian children and staged hundreds of vigilante raids on Palestinian villages.

"Today, land taken from the Palestinians and earmarked for military purposes or Jewish settlements amounts to more than 52% of the most fertile areas of the West Bank and 40% of the Gaza Strip...

"Jewish settlers have not only taken the best Palestinian land. They have also, with Israel proper, quite literally drained precious water resources from Palestinian farmers. The deep settler wells have caused sea water to seep into shallow Palestinian wells, poisoning citrus trees and making their drinking water taste of salt..."

That the Jewish communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza have been established on about 4% of the land, and that the areas of settlement were mostly totally barren can be easily seen by visitors to the area. But visitors to the Internet site can hardly be expected to know better. Nor can they know that it is the unsupervised digging under the Palestinian Authority in Gaza which has caused the salinization of the Arab wells. And that in Judea and Samaria illegal digging may threaten the water supply in Green Line Israel.

Another Web site, The Islamic Cause of Palestine, prepared by the Islamic Association for Palestine Information Office, boggles the mind with history lessons which must embarrass even the most anti-Israel Arab scholars. But its fundamentalist myths do provide insight into the thinking of their begetters:

"Palestine is a strategic land due to both its religious significance and geographic location. Throughout history it has been the center of the conflict and struggle between the Muslim World and Western Christendom. In the past century it has also become the center of the struggle between the Muslim World and the Jews. The significance of Palestine in the Islamic faith and throughout Islamic History is second only to the significance of Mecca and Medina. The loss of Palestine in 1948 is second only to the downfall of the Islamic Caliphate as the greatest loss to the Muslim Ummah [People] in this century, and the two events are strongly interlinked.

"The history of Palestine represents the history of Islam from the first prophet of Islam, Adam (Peace Be Upon Him), to the last prophet of Islam, Muhammad (PBUH). Palestine is the land of prophets who were sent with the message of Islam and hence should not be ruled by anyone other than those who uphold the message of Islam by implementing its laws and regulations.

"Al-Aqsa was the second mosque established on earth forty years after the establishment of Al-Masjid [mosque] Al-Haram. It is a holy site where many of the prophets were born or died, including Prophets Ibrahim, Lut [Lot], Dawood [David], Suleiman [Solomon], Musa [Moses] and Isa [Jesus]. While Dawood and Suleiman were able to create Islamic states in Palestine based on divinely ordained laws, according to both the Bible and the Qur'an, their descendants strayed from the path, transgressed against the laws revealed by God and thus brought upon themselves God's punishment which included banishment from the holy land.

"In 1948 The Jews claimed the establishment of a state for themselves over the land of Palestine and called it Israel. Hundreds of thousands of Muslims were forced out of Palestine under the military pressure of Jewish terrorist groups such as the Irgun, Levi and Haganot which were financed and armed by the British army.

"In 1967 Israel attacked Egypt, Jordan and Syria and occupied more land including for the first time Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa. Since that time Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa has been the target of several attempts by the Jews to destroy or burn it, including several attempts to bring about its collapse through underground excavations. The Jews know that Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa is symbolic of the Islamic nature of the land and want to remove any trace of Islamic civilization from Palestine."

If there is a contradiction between the Palestinian claim that the kingdoms of David and Solomon either did not exist or were insignificant, short-lived episodes in the history of the Canaanites-Palestinians, and the fundamentalist view that David and Solomon, like Adam and Moses, were good Moslems many centuries before the birth of Mohammed, it does not seem to bother the Web historians.

Behind this total disregard for the constraints of time, place and logic, there is a truth as the Islamic movement sees it which cannot be ignored. Under the heading The Real Nature of the Conflict lies an illumination of fanatic truth:

"When looking at the significance of Palestine within the Islamic faith and the central role it has played throughout Islamic history, the real nature of the conflict is a civilizational conflict waged between, on the one hand Islamic Civilization with its divinely inspired laws and mission to create on this earth the society of justice and freedom which has been ordained by God; and on the other hand, Western Civilization with its materialistic culture, worship of ethnicity and the state and denial of God's supremacy.

"The existence of a Jewish state in the heart of the Muslim World and the occupation of Masjid Al-Aqsa is symbolic of the weakness of the Muslim Ummah and the Muslims' own straying from the path of Islam in embracing imported ideologies. Masjid Al-Aqsa, Baitul-Maqdis, and the Blessed Lands of Palestine do not belong to the Palestinians or Arabs alone but to all Muslims, and only when the Muslims return to their faith and see the conflict in its real terms can they liberate Palestine as was done in the 12th Century by Salah Al-Din Al-Ayyubi who, while not an Arab, knew his Islamic responsibility in undertaking the civilization struggle against the West and Islam."

This call for an all-Moslem jihad for the "liberation of Palestine" is undisguised. It would be foolish to take it lightly.

Numbers

THE April 19 Eye on the Media column addressed the fraud perpetrated by *The Guardian*'s David Hirst, who placed the first major attack on Arabs by the Irgun Zva'i Leumi in 1936 instead of 1938. The change enabled Hirst to claim that it was the Jews who started the terrorist war of 1936-1939.

A letter from reader Yisrael Medad corrects an error in the numbers of Arab casualties: "Mr. Bar-Illan mistakenly sums up Irgun retaliatory attacks against Arabs as 'killing at most 100, in the second half of the [Arab] Revolt.'

The actual figure, culled from two separate Irgun histories written by former Irgun members, is 260. This relates to the period between November 14, 1937 and July 20, 1939. Previously, there were some dozen or so attacks with minimal lethal results.

"What Mr. Bar-Illan leaves out is that the Hagana also engaged in reprisal attacks throughout the period of the 1936-39 'Disturbances.' Shootings and bomb attacks were many, on the initiative of local commanders. Occasionally, the official Labor press, *Davar*, would blame the Irgun for Hagana actions.

"It is also worth noting that British MP Josiah Wedgwood became a strong supporter of Irgun actions during 1938 despite his principled non-violent stance."

The numbers of Arab casualties is, of course, irrelevant to the Hirst distortion.

The smaller number cited in the column was culled from *A Chronology of the Jewish Community in Palestine*, published by Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi and the Hebrew University.

The public must vote on the real issues

CAPITAL TALK
TEDDY KOLLEK WITH AMOS KOLLEK

ELECTIONS are fast approaching and a peculiar thing is happening: the line between the two central blocs is growing dimmer every minute.

"A strong Israel with Peres" and "Peace with Netanyahu" are the slogans of the day. Seems like a joke? Well, it is not intended to be. Until a few weeks ago, it appeared that the Israeli voter would for once have the opportunity to cast his or her ballot on clear-cut and very different options, but suddenly the opportunity seemed to dissipate.

The current government has put itself on the line for nearly four years to conceive a controversial peace with all of Israel's neighbors, while the Likud opposed every step of the process. What could be clearer than these two directions? If the voters believe the peace process is working, Labor will remain in power. And, if strength based on keeping the territories seems to be the preferred state, then the Likud should win.

What a relief, one would think, to have such clarity at this crucial moment in history. Why then the sudden swapping of roles? The Israeli people should have the right to demand of those who wish to get their mandate: "Stand for what you are, rise or fall for your beliefs and your deeds. Don't do everything you can to confuse the issues in the weeks before decision time."

In addition, the change to the direct election of the prime minister may bring about an unprecedented paralysis in the government if the winning candidate does not represent the party with a clear majority. Almost all Israeli governments have been held hostage by small parties at some point; parties representing very minor segments of the population suddenly hold key posts in areas they know little about. Imagine what might happen if that phenomenon were combined with a prime minister and a majority party from opposing political camps. How will anything get done?

Israel has been adopting more and more of its cultural and political vocabulary from the US, and some of it has been good. However, direct elections in a country with two parties and a country with a few dozen parties are two totally different stories.

It is unfortunate that a country as small as Israel continues to embrace a multi-party system. It allows every dissident, every outcast, every Knesset member who has had an argument with someone in his or her partyto form his or her own list and run in the national elections. Clearly most of those lists represent very little, but they do dilute the political system of much of its strength.

Why should a good man like Natan Sharansky form an immigrant party?

While new immigrants do face specific problems, on the whole, the absorption of immigrants here has been one of the greatest success stories in recent history. Creating a party that singles the immigrants out in fact interferes with their integration instead of helping it. Creating more political camps and more slogans accomplishes nothing.

My criticism all seems to point to the same problem: a growing lack of public responsibility and an increasing commitment to personal gain rather than to a cause.

I hope that on May 29 the people of Israel will be wise and mature enough to vote on the real issues and not on empty slogans.

Lessons from Hadrian

VIEW FROM NOV
MOSHE KOHN

IT seems that even by late classical antiquity Jews could do no right in the eyes of those seeking to do us wrong. The following anecdote, related in *Midrash Echa Rabba* 3:58-59, is an illustration of this.

A Jew passing the Roman Emperor Hadrian greeted him. Hadrian asked him: "Who are you?" The man replied: "A Jew."

Infuriated, Hadrian said: "How dare a Jew greet Hadrian?!" And he ordered the man be decapitated.

Later, another Jew, who had witnessed this incident, passed Hadrian and was careful *not* to greet him. Hadrian asked him: "Who are you?"

The man replied: "A Jew."

Infuriated, Hadrian said: "How dare a Jew pass Hadrian without greeting him?!" And he ordered the man decapitated.

Hadrian's counselors said to him: "We don't understand: both those who greet you and those who fail to greet you are executed."

Hadrian replied: "Are you going to teach me how to rid myself of my enemies?"

This episode – or, more likely, legend – no doubt occurred around 135 CE, the year Hadrian suppressed the three-year-long Bar Kochba Revolt, with monstrous cost in both Jewish and Roman lives.

Scholars dispute this revolt's causes, but one school of leading scholars agrees that it was set off by two major factors. One reason was the apocalyptic turbulence of the time, the heightened and widespread messianic expectations among the Jews since the destruction of the Second Temple six decades earlier. This was exemplified by Rabbi Akiva's verbal anointing of Bar Kochba as *the* Messiah.

The other factor was a series of Roman actions, especially the ban on circumcision and, more importantly, Hadrian's decision to raze Jewish Jerusalem and build the heathen city of Aelia Capitolina on its ruins.

Because of these acts, Hadrian is named in Jewish sources as "Hadrian the Wicked" and "Hadrian-Blast-His-Bones" (in Hebrew, *Shehik-Atzamot*, literally, "May-His-Bones-Be-Ground-to-Dust.") Later, some historians referred to him as a "bloodthirsty tyrant." He has also been characterized as fickle, impetuous, idiosyncratic, and full of contradictions.

OTHER MIDRASHIC tales reflect another side of Hadrian, one that earned him the characterization of "one of the most enlightened Roman emperors." Possessor of a Hellenic education, he dabbled in literature, painting, mathematics, and philosophy, and enjoyed the company of scholars. The talmudic literature reports conversations between him and the Sages, especially Rabbi Yehoshua ben Hananiah, during visits he made to Eretz Yisrael.

One of those anecdotes tells us (*Vayikra Rabba* 25:5) that "Hadrian-Blast-His-Bones" was strolling in Tiberias, where he saw an old man busy planting. He said to the man: "Grandpa, Grandpa – if you had worked in your youth, you wouldn't have to toil now in your old age."

The man replied: "I worked when I was young, and I'm working in my old age, and I do what is pleasing to the Heavenly Master."

Hadrian said: "Upon your life, old man, what is your age?"

"One hundred."

"One hundred and you imagine you're going to live to eat of the fruit of the trees you're planting?"

"If I'm worthy, I'll eat; if not – then just as my forebears toiled for me, so am I now toiling for my progeny."

Hadrian told the man to let him know if he lives to eat of those fruits. Some time later the trees produced fine figs. The man filled a basket with them and went to the palace.

When he was granted an audience with the emperor, Hadrian asked him: "Who are you and what do you want?"

The old man identified himself, and Hadrian ordered a golden chair brought for the man to sit on and the basket emptied of the figs and refilled with money. Hadrian's servants demurred: "All that honor to that old Jew?!" Hadrian replied: "Seeing that his Creator has honored him so, shall *I* not honor him?"

ANOTHER REMARKABLE anecdote tells of a conversation between Hadrian and his nephew, Aquila or Onkelos, who converted to Judaism and translated the Torah into Greek and Aramaic. Following are two versions of the Hadrian-Onkelos episode, (found respectively in *Tanhuma Mishpatim* 3 and *Shmot Rabba* 30:12).

Onkelos feared his uncle's reaction to his plan to become a Jew, so he said to him: "I'd like to become a businessman. How should I go about it?"

Hadrian advised him to buy whatever goods the market was offering at low prices and hold them till the prices rose, which they were sure to do.Onkelos then went to Eretz Yisrael, studied Torah, and converted to Judaism.

Returning to Rome, he visited his uncle, who remarked: "You have a strange look. What happened, did you lose the stock you bought?"

When Onkelos told him what he had done, Hadrian asked: "Who advised you to do *that*?"

Onkelos replied: "You did. You told me to buy the cheapest goods on the market. I scoured the whole world and was unable to find a nation more debased and more likely to rise than Israel."

In the second version, Onkelos directly tells Hadrian of his intention to become a Jew. Hadrian says to him: "What, this nation which I have so debased and of which I have taken so many lives?! You want to join the most degraded of all the nations?!"

Onkelos replied: "The tiniest Jewish tot knows there is a God who created the universe, and what was created on the first day and what on the second day, and knows what sustains the universe. And their Torah is truth itself."

Hadrian said: "Very well, go and learn their Torah, but don't become a Jew."

Onkelos said: "Even the wisest man in your realm, be he even 100 years old, cannot properly comprehend their Torah without becoming a full-fledged Jew."

NEXT TUESDAY is Lag Ba'omer, the day marking a hiatus in the death and destruction the Romans wreaked in suppressing the Bar Kochba Revolt. Because of the revolt's failure, some contemporary historians, with the perfect vision of hindsight, retroactively condemn Rabbi Akiva as an intoxicated messianist and Bar Kochba as a mad adventurer.In fact, Rabbi Akiva was right – until Bar Kochba, puffed up with hubris, forgot the cause he was serving and, in effect, turned himself into the cause.

Nevertheless, Rabbi Akiva has left us some immortal teachings, and Bar Kochba remains a figure worthy of judicious admiration and study.

SRULIK by DOSH



Alive and living

SHABBAT SHALOM
SHLOMO RISKIN

"And you shall count for yourselves from the morrow after the Sabbath... seven complete Sabbaths shall there be." (Lev.23:15)

WHAT is the significance of Lag Ba'omer, the 33rd day after Pessah? This week's portion of *Emor* contains no trace of Lag Ba'omer.

Whether we think of the seven weeks between Pessah and Shavuot as having initially been a period of ever-increasing anticipation of receiving the Torah or as a preparation in sanctification – much as a bride-to-be counts seven clean days before her purification is complete and the wedding may be held – the fact is that Jewish history and halachic custom has ordained these days as a mourning period, when haircuts, weddings, and group festivities are forbidden.

The reason is not quite clear. The Talmud mentions that 24,000 of Rabbi Akiva's students died during this period. And we have records about the destruction of Jewish communities along the Rhine River at the hands of the Crusaders during the five weeks before Shavuot.

But what is most mysterious is the origin of a festival on the 33rd day of the count, when every fiddler in town is busy playing at a wedding and every youngster spends all night over a bonfire. The Me'iri (Rabbi Menahem Me'iri, 1249-1316) quotes earlier Gaonic sources that on the 33rd day of the Omer the students of Akiva stopped dying. This is probably the most commonly held view as to why the mourning reverts for one day to a massive celebration.

But there's a second tradition.

The Ateret Zekenim (Rabbi Menahem Mendel Auerbach of Cracow, 1620-1689) speaks of the custom of visiting the grave of Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai on Lag Ba'omer, the day the great sage died. Rabbi Haim Vital, the major disciple of the Ari Hakadosh, the Holy Lion of Safed, reports that he saw his beloved master go to the Meron gravesite with his family on Lag Ba'omer. He also records that the Holy Ari gave his three-year-old son his first haircut in that place on that day, with great festivity.

But there were those who opposed this custom. The great sage of 19th century Pressburg, known as the Hatam Sofer (Rabbi Moshe Schreiber), writes that although the intention of those who go to the grave may be for the sake of heaven, he would refrain from such customs. Rabbi Shaul Nathanson (1810-1875), perhaps the leading 19th-century halachic authority, concurs, arguing that the memory of a sage like Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai should be honored by fasting, not feasting.

An original response to these critiques was provided by Rabbi Aryeh Leibush Bulchover, who reminds us of the story which records how Shimon bar Yohai deplored the supposed Roman contributions to civilization, perceiving the sophisticated markets, bridges and bathhouses as nothing more than elaborate means of fulfilling materialistic desires. (B.T. *Shabbat* 33b)

For being so forthright, Shimon bar Yohai was condemned to a torturous death by the Roman authorities, and that would have meant that his body would never have been buried. He miraculously escaped, studied Torah in a cave with his son for many years, and outlived the caesar who wanted him dead.

Thus the basic miracle on Lag Ba'omer is that Shimon bar Yohai died a natural death, and that there exists a gravesite on Israeli soil for us to visit. The festival is therefore called the *hillula* of Shimon bar Yohai, concludes Bulchover, from the word *hallel*, praise to God.

The mystical-hassidic tradition, however, sees no problem in turning a death anniversary (*yahrzeit*) into a festive celebration. Much the opposite: hassidic-mystics drink *l'haim* and celebrate the "uplifting of the soul of the departed." After all, our true and eternal home is the supernal realm of God, so the reuniting of a soul with its Source calls for sacred joy rather than self-centered tears.

Herein, I believe, lies the true origin of the Lag Ba'omer festival.

The term *hillula* is used in the Talmud to mean a wedding celebration (*Brachot* 6a and 31a). From this perspective, the death of a *tzaddik* is considered his true wedding day – the moment he is freed from the entrapments of his body to become united with God in the True World. On Lag Ba'omer, Shimon bar Yochai left this world to "wed" the Almighty in the World to Come.

The mystical commentary on the Bible, the Holy Zohar, teaches us that this world is compared to an engagement, while the World to Come is the wedding. In this world we are merely able to study the externals of the Torah, while in the next world its inner secrets are revealed, much as a man and woman know each other's secrets only after the marriage.

Shimon bar Yohai is the central figure in Judaism's mystical tradition. On the day of his passing he revealed the legacy of the Holy Zohar to his son Rabbi Eliezer, making it possible for all later generations to have a taste of the inner secrets of Torah in this world. More than any other person, Shimon bar Yochai brought together the world below and the world above.

Hence, Lag Ba'omer is not merely the day when the students of Akiva stopped dying, but the day when we can *all* stop dying, when we can have a glimpse of eternity through the writings of Shimon bar Yohai.

Lag Ba'omer teaches that death is a passage between two celebrations, the engagement and the wedding. It teaches that a gravesite can become a place of joy and festivity, a conquering of death itself.

Shabbat Shalom

Juniors take bronze

BRIDGE
MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

South dealer
East-West vulnerable

North (Mermelstein)
♠A 10 7 4
♥A Q 10
♦A 4
♣A J 8 2

West
♠Q 5
♥K 4
♦8 2
♣Q 10 9 7 6 4 3

East
♠J 8 6 3
♥J 9 7 5 3 2
♦10 7
♣5

South (Levin)
♠K 9 2
♥8 6
♦K Q J 9 6 5 3
♣K

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	pass	2♣	pass
3 ♦	pass	4♥	pass
4 NT	pass	5♣	pass
5 ♠	pass	5 NT	pass
6 ♣	pass	7 NT	(all pass)

Opening lead: ♠7

THE European Union Bridge Championships concluded last week in Ostend, Belgium. The tournament was open to countries belonging to the Common Market, but Israel was also represented.

Team games were divided into four categories. The Open Teams was won by Sweden, with Italy second and France third. Austria captured the gold medal in the Ladies Teams, with France second, Belgium third and Israel fourth. Germany won the gold medal in the Mixed Teams, the silver going to Great Britain and bronze to France.

In the Junior Teams, restricted to players 25 and under, Denmark took the gold, Italy the silver and Israel the bronze. The Israel junior team was captain Tvi Ben Tovim, Amir Levin, Eran Mermelstein, Assaf Amit, Yaniv Zack, Inon Liran and Eldad Magal.

Mermelstein and Levin were the only pair in the field to reach the grand slam shown in today's deal. The bidding was complicated and typical of the scientific approach and aggressiveness of the younger generation.

Levin (South) opened the bidding one diamond and Mermelstein (North) responded two clubs. There are two noteworthy things about this. First, West did not overcall with a seven-card club suit because his side was vulnerable. Second, North could easily have responded one spade but chose to make a two-level call to tell his partner immediately that he held a strong hand.

South now made a very aggressive jump to three diamonds, where most players would bid only two diamonds. This immediately planted grand-slam thoughts in his partner's head.

North jumped to four hearts, a space-age call known as "kickback," in which a jump to a new suit above the last bid suit is "Keycard Blackwood." The idea behind kickback is to keep the bidding lower than the traditional Blackwood bid of four notrump, and it worked well here.

South responded four notrump, showing one keycard, the king of diamonds. Five clubs by North was a relay bid asking South if he held the queen of diamonds. South bid five spades, showing that he did indeed hold the queen of diamonds – he would have bid five diamonds without it – and at the same time he was cuebidding the king of spades.

Five notrump by North asked if South had any further good news and South bid six clubs, cuebidding the king of clubs. That was enough for North, who jumped to seven notrump.

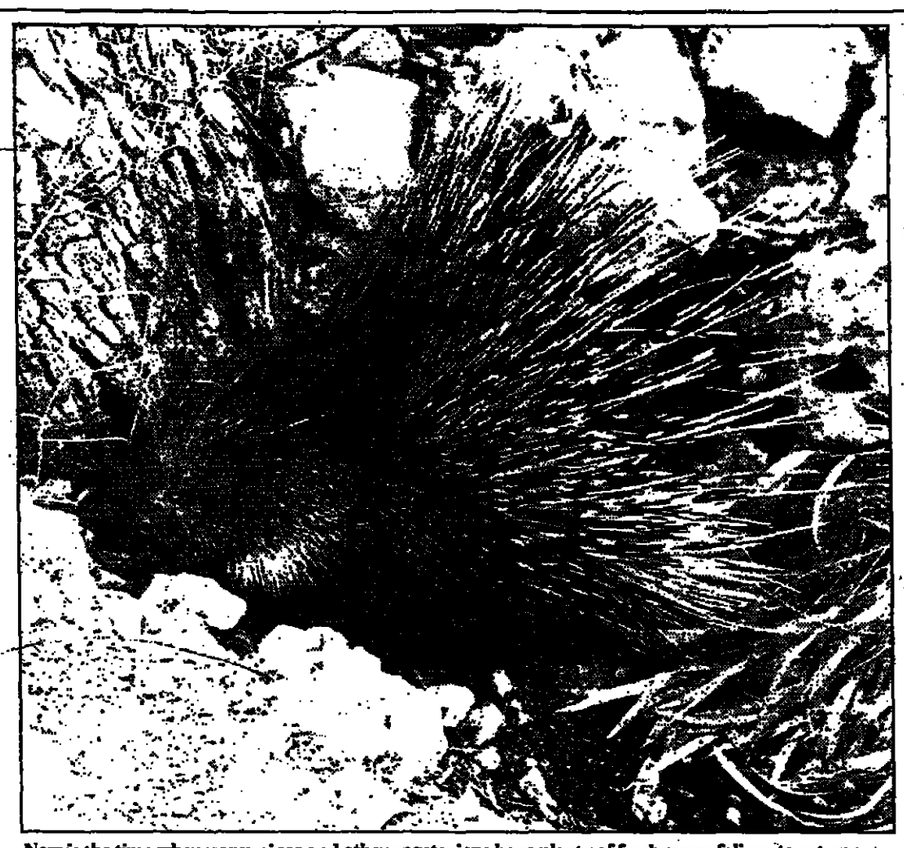
West led a club and it appeared that Levin needed a finesse in hearts for his 13th trick; he had two spades, one heart, seven diamonds and two clubs.

But Levin showed how to make the hand even if the king of hearts was over the queen. He won the first trick with his king of clubs and cashed six rounds of diamonds. Then he led a spade to dummy's ace and cashed the ace of clubs, throwing a heart from his hand.

On this trick he noted with interest the fact that East held a singleton club. Next he led a spade to his king. Finally, with a spade, a heart and a diamond in his hand facing the ace-queen of hearts and jack of clubs in dummy, he led his last high diamond.

Levin executed a perfect "double squeeze." West was forced to keep the queen of clubs, so he came down to one heart, the king. The jack of clubs was now thrown from dummy and East, who had to keep the jack of spades, also came down to one heart, the jack.

When Levin next led a heart toward dummy's ace-queen, it didn't matter where the king was, because both defenders were known to hold only one card in the suit. As it was, you, my mother and my late great-uncle would have made the grand slam by simply finessing in hearts, but Levin showed how to do it in expert fashion.



Now is the time when porcupines and other vegetarians have plenty of fresh green foliage to eat. (W. Braun)

It's been a strange season

NATURE
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

THERE are still sometimes years when the weather follows the general lines or expectations of the season. But this is not always so and we have recently seen the result of an atypical winter and spring.

This year has been atypical, and the warm, even hot weather lingered on until mid-October. The meteorologists tell us that such a thing hasn't happened in the past 50 years. In the meantime, the rains started and we had a couple of weeks of almost tropical weather before being hit by an unexpected deluge.

When this happens, the natural order of things is thrown into confusion. In the garden and under the eaves of outbuildings, the sparrows and doves, lulled by the lingering summer, have started new nests as if they weren't expecting the winter. And they were right, because the winter should have been over.

Now, most of these nests have been destroyed by a sudden temperature drop, and the rest are doomed. They were started either much too late in the season or too early to be successful.

But it's not only the birds that get confused. Many plants' seeds lie dormant all winter and only sprout when the warm spring sunshine reaches them. But this year they sprouted out of season. Since plants get their growth instruction from the length of day as well as the temperature, many of these young plants flowered and put out seed even before reaching anything resembling their normal size. Just how this affects flowers that bloom in the spring is a moot point.

MAMMALS were less affected by this erratic weather. Most mammals grow their winter coats under the influence of the shortening hours of daylight and not according to ambient temperatures. The organs that control breeding also are photosensitive and not controlled by weather, so most mammals will come into their breeding seasons and produce young at the proper time. For most, this means giving birth in the early spring.

For ruminants – such as gazelles and ibex – and such other vegetarians as porcupines, field mice and hares, this is the time when there is usually plenty of fresh green foliage to eat, which females need to produce enough milk for their offspring.

For jackals, foxes, wolves, leopards and other predators, more foliage means more and better prey, and a likelihood of finding the day's meal without too much effort. They too must find adequate nourishment to feed themselves and nourish their young.

The insectivores – those insect-eating little animals, like shrews and hedgehogs – find more food as the warming weather brings out more insects, grubs and snails. This season also brings nests of baby mice, which are a delicacy for hedgehogs.

As for the unseasonably hot weather, the reptiles seem to have enjoyed it the most. These creatures, called cold-blooded because they derive their body heat and their energy from ambient temperatures, enjoyed a month of added life this year before the "little death" of hibernation claimed them for another winter.

Dawn of a new age

CHESS
NICK KOPALOFF

FORMER national champion GM Ilya Smirin landed the NIS 20,000 winner's purse at the Tel Aviv chess festival last week in what has been described as the richest private tournament ever staged here. Fifty-four of the country's most esteemed players battled for a slice of the NIS 100,000 prize money. But Smirin got the biggest share as he coasted past GM Gad Rechlis, the recipient of NIS 12,000, with a 3-1 victory in the final.

The knockout tournament was organized jointly by the Chess Stars in Israel group, the Israeli Chess Federation and the Association for the Advancement of Israeli Sport; the 54 participants included the country's top 50 ranked players and four of the most talented juniors. Each player had half an hour on the clock to complete each game.

The prize moneys at local tourneys are scant to say the least and Israeli professional players often have no choice but to seek their fortunes in greener pastures overseas. While some are convinced that this increased prize money was just a one-off, others are more optimistic. Last week's chess festival is even being heralded as the dawning of a new age in local chess.

THE NEW women's world champion Zsuzsa Polgar and her defeated opponent Xie Jun of China were each threatened with a $25,000 fine following their agreed draw after 19 "theory" moves in game three of their recent world title match, the British *Chess* magazine reports.

Responding to Polgar's impassioned defence plea the incensed tournament organizer Luis Rentero threatened in true Franco style "...any time you do not play with fighting spirit I will punish you again." The following game demonstrates that their fighting spirit was indeed restored.

Polgar, Zsuzsa – Xie Jun
Jaén, Spain 1996 Game 7
Scotch Game

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Nxc6 Qf6 6.Qd2. This move had long suffered the reputation of being dubious, but Kasparov reaffirmed its soundness in his 1993 world championship match against Nigel Short.

6...dxc6 7.Nc3 Be6 8.Na4 Bd6 9.Qe3. An imaginative and original idea as it prepares Bd2 and 0-0-0 while at the same time it prevents Black from castling long.

9...Nh6 10.h3 0-00 11.Be2 Rfe8 12.Nc3 Qe5 13.f4 Qa5 14.Bd2 Bb4 15.a3 Nf5?16.exf5 Bc4 17.Qd4! Bc3 18.Bxc3 Rxe2+

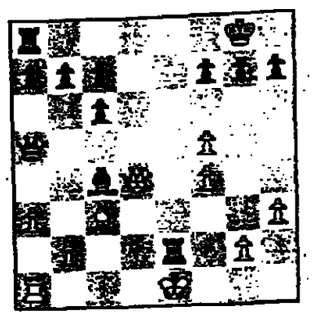


DIAGRAM 1

19.Kf1! A highly unorthodox position which Xie Jun overlooked on move 15. Although Black has the dreaded discovered check option, there is no advantage to be had in it. If the White king had found sanctuary with 19.Kd1, Black would be better after 19...Qd5. On 19...Re4 after the text move Polgar had planned 20.Qxc4 with advantage.

19...Qxc3 20.bxc3 Re4+ 21.Kf2 Rxd4 22.cxd4 Rd8 23.Rhe1. At the postmortem Polgar suggested that 23.c3 was safer.

23...Kf8 24.Re4 g6 25.f6 Rd6 26.Re7 Rxf6 27.Rxc7 Rxf4+ 28.Ke3 Rf6 29.Rxb7 a6. 29...Re6+ 30.Kd2 Re2+ 31.Kc3 Bd5 32.Rxa7 Bxg2 33.a4 with a winning advantage for White.

30.Re1 Bf1 31.g4 g5 32.Rb6 Bg2 33.Rg1 Bd5 34.Rg3 Bc4 35.d5 Bxd5 36.Rxa6 Kg7 37.Ra7 Rf4 38.a4 Kf6 39.Kd2 Rf2+ 40.Kc1 Ke5 41.a5 Kd4 42.Kb2 Kc4 43.Rb7 c5 44.Rb6 1-0

DAVID Bronstein found a cute winning combination in his 1950 game against Boleslavsky. White to play and win.

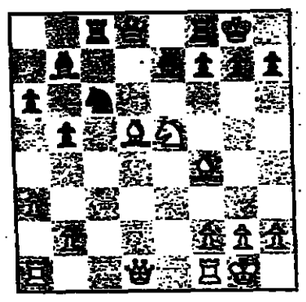


DIAGRAM 2

Solution: 1.Nd7! Re8. 1...Qxd7 2.Bxf7+ wins the queen
2.Bxf7+! Kxf7 3.Qd5+ Kg6 4.g4!! Bg5 5.Qf5+ Kh6 6.h4! 1-0

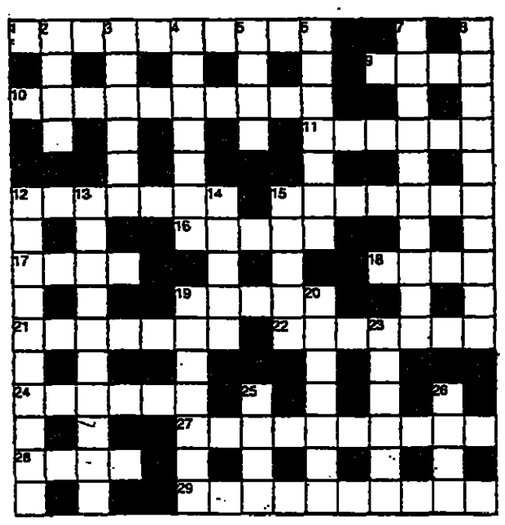
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

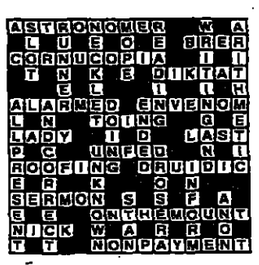
1 They don't have to be smart to fool the birds (10)
9 Vagrant who needs nothing more than a warm place (4)
10 New art's seldom produced by great artists (3,7)
11 Revolutionary development in naval fire-power (6)
12 Short of shot-guns (4-3)
15 Calm sort of current in S. American river (7)
16 Not an account based on fact (5)
17 The ship that ended the embargo (4)
18 French girl returns if encored (4)
19 Charming hostess who helped her guests make pigs of themselves (5)
21 Oriental nets are cast (7)
22 Unusual spite shown by the French in a letter (7)
24 Where one is likely to find a rink-manager? (6)
27 Member of many unions (10)
28 Ancient Mariner's story brought back by an Arab prince (4)
29 University lecturers are in the circulation figures (10)

DOWN

2 Horse fired with enthusiasm in a Western? (4)
3 Don't go—mother is in control (6)
4 Sort of clothing for resting actors? (4,3)
5 On top of the bowling (4)
6 It contracts to continue one's circulation (7)
7 The Daily Worker? (10)
8 Order to the non-conformist on the track? (3,3,4)
12 Minor example of proportional representation (5,5)
13 Do they indicate that crime does pay? (5,2,3)
14 He ran a novel criminal class (5)
15 Put in winning position (5)
19 Plant for a sycophant (7)
20 Green damaged after record stand (7)
23 A politician in the streets forming impressions (6)
25 Amount of cloth needed to cover a girl (4)
26 Wine that sparkles when it is reflected (4)



SOLUTIONS

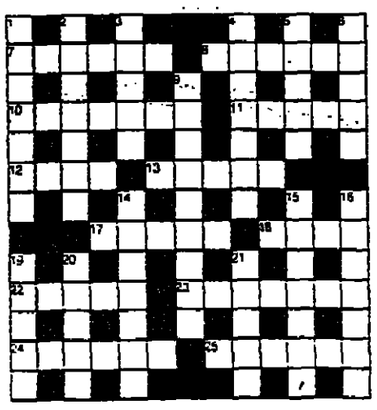


Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Bonny, 4 Factors, 8 Conflux, 9 Titan, 10 Lotto, 11 Napless, 13 Urge, 15 Curate, 17 Reared, 20 Soya, 22 Haughty, 24 Sotto, 26 Midst, 27 Taffeta, 28 Nodular, 29 Larva.

DOWN: 1 Bucolic, 2 Nonet, 3 Tell out, 4 Fixing, 5 Cut up, 6 Outwear, 7 Sinus, 12 Aery, 14 Rest, 16 Rounded, 18 Fanciful, 19 Diorama, 21 Oyster, 22 Human, 23 Hotel, 25 Their.

QUICK CROSSWORD



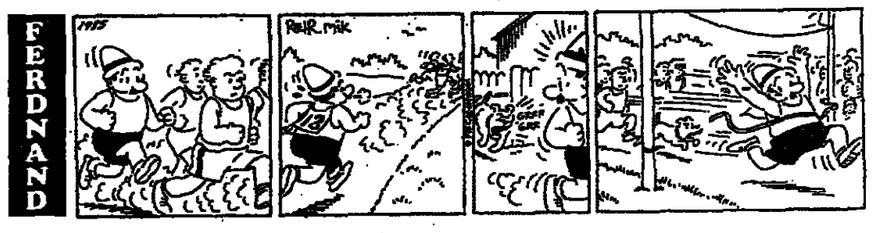
ACROSS

7 Inflamed (6)
8 Reply (6)
10 Fervent (7)
11 Firearm (5)
12 Barrel (4)
13 Garish (5)
17 Rigid (5)
18 Tender (4)
22 Pungent (5)
23 Slim (7)
24 Total (6)
25 Diatribe (6)

DOWN

1 Crime (7)
2 Disrobe (7)
3 Gem (5)
4 Interrupt (7)
5 Rapid (5)
6 Command (5)
9 Resolute (9)
14 Pupil (7)
15 Genial (7)
16 Erudite (7)
19 Deadly (5)
20 Sag (5)
21 Start (5)





Help cure those summertime blues

FUNDS
BEVERLEE BLACK

Summer is a-coming, and that means summer camps to keep kids off the streets, and day trips for senior citizens, to give them some relief from the heat.

We're asking our supporters to send in as much as they can and more, to help those less fortunate.

Remember, how much we do depends on you. Send your donations to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000.

Donors in the United States wishing to receive tax benefits, can send their donations to: Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, 211 E. 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017. Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate.

FORSAKE ME NOT

NIS 4,650 Jacob (Jack) Davies Trust.
NIS 1,632 Proceeds of the Max Spitz Charity Day Competition, held by the Lawn Bowlers of Israel.
NIS 1,000 In honor of our parents – Hyla and Joe Busheikin, J'lm.
NIS 500 Claire Schulman, Tel Aviv.
NIS 350 Anon, J'lm.
NIS 397 In memory of Rose Newman, mother of Dorit Linsk – Michal Langweiler, Stephen Kramer and family.
NIS 300 From the members of Kibbutz Alumim.
NIS 180 In loving memory of my mother, I.D. – M.S.
NIS 150 In honor of the 90th birthday of my brother, Walter Spiegel – L. Cohen, Kibbutz Sde Nehemia.
NIS 126 In memory of my brother, Philip Stein – Benjamin Stein, J'lm.
NIS 108 In loving memory of Rabbi and Mrs. S. Levy – Raphael and Yehudit Levy, Kfar Habad.
NIS 100 In memory of my beloved grandfather, Alec (Alexis) Lubrametsky, born South Russia, Rosh Hashana, 1886, died London, Lag Ba'omer 1961 – Anthony Saunders, Kibbutz Kfar Blum. In memory of loved ones – Anon., Ra'anana. In memory of our beloved deceased ones – R. and A.S. In memory of our beloved parents, Minnie and Philip Kossin and Clara and Sam Smith – Ruth and Zev Kossin, J'lm.
NIS 94 In honor of my dear mother Chaya-Sarah Gorr's 94th birthday, till 120 – Reeva Gruna Gorr, J'lm.
NIS 90 In loving memory of Leo Rubin Hirshhaut, Celia and Isaac Lazar, Morris and Leah Sperling and Ida Levitan – From their loving family.
NIS 75 Therese Flesch, Tel Aviv.
NIS 60 Minha Minyan, J'lm.
NIS 50 In memory of the victims of terror – Ena and Alan Dorsman, Kibbutz Ayelet Hashahar. Percy Menham, Herzliya. In memory of Ruth Wohlfarph, beloved wife of Uri (Hellmuth) – Ed and Barbara Davidoff, Tiberias.
NIS 36 David and Sarah Cern, Ra'anana.
NIS 15 Eva Berkson, Netanya.
$200 Nemesio Aldoy, Cleveland, OH.
$180 In memory of my beloved mother, Anina, and husband, Maurizio – Lina Eman, Milan, Italy.
$100 In blessed memory of my sister, Lene Lieber, we miss you – Selma Lieber, Las Palmas Gran Canaria, Spain. In memory of Rabbi John J. Zicker –. Sylvia Warner, Campo, CA.
$50 Carl and Selma Manela, Tappan, NY.
$25 In honor of my dear friend, Harry Miller, Encino, on his 80th birthday – Roman Rakover, Van Nuys, CA. Grant Newton, Sylva, NC.
$15 Roy Asper, Winnipeg, Canada.
SwFr.180 In cherished memory of our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Bertha Kossoy née Jablonowski on the 12th anniversary of her death (5th Iyar) – Kossoy and Ohry-Kossoy families, Geneva and Kiryat Krinizi.
DFL.180 In loving memory of Paula Brunner – M. Baeck, Wassenaar, Holland.

New Donations	Progress Totals
NIS 10,313	NIS 218,284.56
$695	$21,663.50

(other currencies converted into shekels)

TOY FUND

NIS 4,650 Jacob (Jack) Davies Trust.
NIS 1,632 Proceeds of the Max Spitz Charity Day Competition held by the Lawn Bowlers of Israel.
NIS 1,000 In honor of our nine grandchildren – Hyla and Joe Busheikin, J'lm.
NIS 480 In memory of Martin Leibowitz, husband of Geri Leibowitz – Michal Langweiler, Stephen Kramer, and family.
NIS 250 Claire Schulman, Tel Aviv.
NIS 200 In honor of Harold Braude's 70th birthday – Zena and Louis Zuin, Netanya.
NIS 150 Solomon and Sarah Cohen, Ra'anana. In honor of the 90th birthday of my brother, Walter Spiegel – L. Cohen, Kibbutz Sde Nehemia.
NIS 126 In memory of my brother, Philip Stein – Benjamin Stein, J'lm.
NIS 100 In memory of our dear friend, Amy Szlamowiez – The Engolitz Family, Givat Ze'ev. N.N., Mount Carmel. In honor of David Golomb's family – Rita and Fritz Robinson, Tel Aviv. Michael and Edit Cohen, Kohav Ya'ir. In memory of our dear Jonathan T. – R.F., Rehovot.
NIS 60 Anon, Beersheba.
NIS 20 Anon.
NIS 15 Eva Berkson, Netanya.
$180 In memory of my beloved mother, Annina and husband, Maurizio – Lina Eman, Milan, Italy.
$100 In blessed memory of my sister, Lene Lieber, we miss you – Selma Lieber, Las Palmas Gran Canaria, Spain.
$40 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Aichenbaum, Merion, PA.
$15 Roy Asper, Winnipeg, Canada.
$10 Vonceil Harris, Abilene, TX.

New Donations	Progress Totals
NIS 9,233	NIS 43,323.62
$345	$17,977.69

WELCOME HOME FUND

NIS 1,631 Proceeds of the Max Spitz Charity Day Competition held by the Lawn Bowlers of Israel.
NIS 1,000 Joe and Hyla Busheikin, J'lm.
NIS 250 Claire Schulman, Tel Aviv.
NIS 100 In memory of Ruth Brenner, mother of Natalie Petlev – Michal Langweiler, Stephen Kramer, and family.
NIS 15 Eva Berkson, Netanya.
$100 In blessed memory of my sister, Lene Lieber, we miss you – Selma Lieber, Las Palmas Canaria, Spain.
$75 Michael Eckstein, Three Bridges, NJ.
$36 Rabinovitch Family Foundation, Mt. Kisco, NY.
$15 Roy Asper, Winnipeg, Canada.
SwFr.180 In cherished memory of our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Bertha Kossoy née Jablonowski on the 12th anniversary of her death (5th Iyar) – Kossoy and Ohry-Kossoy families, Geneva and Kiryat Krinizi.
DFL.180 In loving memory of brother, Ernst and sister, Hedy – M. Baeck, Wassenaar, Holland.

New Donations	Progress Totals
NIS 2,996	NIS 13,214.67
$226	$9,744

(other currencies converted into shekels)

JERUSALEM CORRIDOR EMERGENCY APPEAL

NIS 100 Eyal Family, Ramat Gan.
$100 Roslyn Sarezky, Palm Beach, FL.
$60 Paul and Linda Miller, McDonald, OH.
$27 Abigail Elman, Bopi Bina Lazar and Be'arit Saide Lazar, New York, NY.
$25 Paul Blaak, Grand Rapids, MI.
$18 Peter Black, Phoenix, AZ. Morris Dagen, Brian Cliffe, NY.
$10 Mr. and Mrs. I. Gersh, Mr. and Mrs. William Shapiro, Passaic, NJ. Janet Fishkin, Philadelphia, PA.
Can.$50 Roy Asper, Winnipeg, Canada.

Totals for The Jerusalem Corridor Emergency Appeal:
New donations NIS 1,100
Total to date NIS 113,378
(All donations converted to shekels).

Please note: This is the final listing for the Emergency Appeal. We thank you for your support.

هكذا من الاصل

Tulips and Vermeer: Amsterdam this spring

KAREN BURSHTEIN

SPINOZA, the Golden Era, the Dutch East India Trading Company, Rembrandt, diamonds. They all evoke the embarrassment of cultural and material richness that make up Amsterdam.

Indeed, Amsterdam's wealth allowed it to become the liberal-minded city that practically invented tolerance. It is also the capital of the laid-back, whiling away an afternoon in a cafe is considered among the noblest of deeds. Amsterdam – a large, cosmopolitan city that is stress-free and at its best in the spring.

In Holland, spring is heralded by tulips. And there's good news for those who thought they missed the dazzling annual display of spring blossoms. A cold spell has set back the flowering of the more than six million tulips – including the "Albert Einstein" and the famous black tulip "Queen of the Night" – which stretch out like a vast multi-colored carpet at the Keukenhof in Lisse, a 112-dunam tulip park west of Amsterdam. (Open until May 22.)

Another special spring event has more than compensated for the late arrival of the tulips: the Vermeer retrospective at the Mauritshuis in the Hague (a 45-minute train ride from Amsterdam), hailed by some critics as the art exhibit of the century.

It is the first and – given the difficulties of getting museums to lend their Vermeers, as well as the fragile state of the masterpieces – it will very likely be the last exhibit devoted to the grand master of the Golden Era.

Twenty-two of his 35 existing works are on display and 300,000 tickets have already been sold. Despite the crowds, those lucky enough to get into the exhibit can examine Vermeer's phenomenal technique. The spatial illusion created in his interior scenes, together with his suggestive use of light and shadow and sensitive handling of color, has fascinated viewers of his works since they were created.

The life of Vermeer, born in 1632 and known as the Sphinx of Delft, is shrouded in mystery. It is not known who the young Vermeer studied with, although as a master painter and later the head of the Saint Luke's Guild he evidently enjoyed some prestige in his lifetime.

He worked slowly, producing one or at the most two paintings a year. He left no drawings or etchings, which makes it difficult to understand how his work evolved. In his early works – which depict biblical and mythological scenes like the "Christ in the House of Mary and Martha" painted in an illusion – the play of light and perspective animate the subjects in his quiet domestic scenes.

In "The Milkmaid," the perfect fabric of the subject's skirt, the thick white walls and the stream of milk are almost tangible. The sparkling rays of suns illuminating the room, which he reproduced through small dots of paint, demonstrate his attention to the play of light.

The rigorous composition of "The Music Lesson," whose subject is a musician in an elegant salon with her back to the viewer and her face visible in the mirror above the instrument, renders the realism of the painting awesome.

Proust famously called "The View of Delft" the "most beautiful painting in the world." X-ray examinations which revealed Vermeer's endless editing, and a unique restoration project carried out at the Mauritshuis before a viewing public, give us further proof of Vermeer's obsession with balance, precision of brushwork, and perspective. (The exhibit runs until June 2.)

BACK IN Amsterdam, there is much on offer this spring. At the Rijksmuseum, a new wing houses 18th- and 19th-century paintings, complementing the museum's superb collection of 16th- and 17th-century Dutch art.

The Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam's modern art gallery, is celebrating its centennial this year with an exhibition called "100 years of the Stedelijk Museum, Good Modern Works."

At the Anne Frank House, a recently discovered letter in English from Anne's father to an English cousin – written after his release from Auschwitz, but before he learned his family's fate – is on display.

Rainy afternoons are another guaranteed entry in the Dutch spring agenda. Just past the floating flower market on the Singel canal is the perfect place to take in a movie on such inclement days. The Tuschinski Movie Theater – an exuberant mix of art decor, Jugendstil, and the Amsterdam school – is often called the most beautiful cinema in the world.



Amsterdam's Prinsengracht Street is where the Anne Frank House is located.

The cinema, which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, is worth a visit even if you don't plan on taking in a flick. It was built by a Polish Jew, Abraham Tuschinski, who felt that even the man in the street had the right to spend his leisure time in luxurious surroundings.

There is a plethora of theater, opera, and dance performances from May 31 to June 30 as part of Amsterdam's Holland Festival. Highlights this spring include dance performances by William Forsythe's Frankfurt Ballet and the Netherlands Dans Theater, which this season is introducing choreographies by Batsheva's Ohad Naharin, including *Black Milk* and *Arbos*, into its repertory. The Netherlands Opera is to present Puccini's *La Boheme* as well as celebrated stage director Peter Zadek's production of *Othello*.

Evenings out inevitably begin and end at the cafe. With more than 1,500 cafes scattered around the city, it is obvious they are the backbone of Amsterdam's social scene. Their atmospheres may be diverse, but all exhibit *gezellig*, or "comfort and conviviality."

The smoke-stained walls of the *bruin* (brown) cafes are an Amsterdam institution. One can get hard liquor, including the famed *jenever* (Dutch gin), at the *Proeflokaals* cafes.

The cafe Papeneilant, with its porcelain walls and dark wood interior, hasn't changed in three centuries. The American is a splendid art-nouveau cafe looking onto the Leidseplein with eclectic clientele. The legendary Cafe Hoppe dating back to 1670 is so crowded at night it is almost impossible to get through the doors. Cafe de Jaren is an example of a high-tech cafe and de Eland is a perennial favorite.

Raw herring is a springtime treat which Amsterdam residents nibble like candy and which usually satisfy the Dutch light-lunch habits. Dinners are copious and eaten relatively early. Most restaurants are open from 6 p.m. Typical Dutch homecooking can be enjoyed at the Keuken van 1870. Portions are huge and prices low.

Amsterdam also is known for its Indonesian cuisine. Locals favor the *rijsttafel*, a sampling of up to 20 Indonesian dishes, at The Speciaal, where reservations are essential. Another excellent Indonesian eatery is Sama Sebo near the museums. Reservations there are also a must. Bordewijk is a popular bistro designed by Dutch furniture maker Rob Eckhardt.

The Dutch Tourist Office offers six different city walking tours for only $1.75 each. They include "Maritime Amsterdam," a tour of the working class-bohemian district, the Jordaan, and "Jewish Amsterdam," which starts and finishes at the Jewish Historical Museum, and includes visits to four beautiful 17th and 18th century synagogues.

Where to stay

THE quirky Hotel de Filosoof is one of Amsterdam's best-kept secrets. Each room in the hotel pays homage to a different philosopher. The Socrates room has a trompe l'oeil sky, the Aristotle room, a classic pediment.

In the Goethe room, the celebrated line from Faust – "*Verweile doch! du bist so schön!*" ("Stay with me! You are so beautiful!") – written in gloomy gothic script above the bed, led one Israeli couple to flee in existential crisis. An original plan for an all-black room covered with quotes from Heidegger on death was eventually nixed as just this side of user unfriendly.

The hotel's owner, philosopher Ida Jongsma, insists it's more than a gimmick. Jongsma, who heads a 148-strong group of "practical philosophers," a new discipline which uses philosophy as therapy, has long been trying to get philosophy out of its ivory tower and make it more accessible to the general public.

The practical philosophers meet weekly in the hotel's gardens to drink *jenever*, smoke, and ponder the meaning of life with hotel guests.

"The Dutch are a merchant-minded people," Jongsma says. "We can sell anything. Even philosophy."

Other hotel options include Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky, a luxury antique-filled hotel with a famous winter garden. The Pulitzer is a 17th-century brick house which was converted into a charming hotel with wooden beams and antique furnishings. Estherea, a narrow 18th-century house, is on the banks of the canal two minutes away from Dam Square.

KLM has flights from Tel Aviv every day but Saturday. Prices start at $632.

K.B.

Shuni: A past and present Jewish presence

SEE IT HERE

HAIM SHAPIRO

SHUNI has such a long and varied history that one can forget for a moment just how beautiful it is.

Located about one kilometer north of Binyamina, on the road leading to Zichron Ya'acov, the site includes remains from the Roman and Byzantine periods, with Jewish associations going back to the time of the Talmud.

In modern times, it was a center for the Betar Movement and a training camp for its underground army, the IZL.

The first thing the visitor is likely to notice after walking in through the massive gates is the Roman theater. It is believed that the theater, which has a certain intimacy about it, was used in pagan fertility rites, centered around the nearby springs.

Archeologists even found small objects in the area which we might regard as pornographic. Later, the water from the springs was sent by aqueduct to nearby Caesarea.

It is surmised that Shuni is also the site of a Jewish village mentioned in the Jerusalem Talmud by the name of Shumi and was where Rabbi Akiva was put to death by the Romans for his part in the Bar Kochba revolt.

Even if this is the case, nothing was found from that period. However, under Byzantine rule, the area apparently flourished as a center of olive-oil production. Some of the oil presses are visible, as are parts of mosaic floors from the same period.

However, it is doubtful there would be much interest today in this history were it not for the fact that in 1914 Baron Edmond de Rothschild bought Shuni, which had been used as a granary by an Arab landowner, and turned it over to Jewish settlers – who used it as an agricultural training center and research station.

It became a center for Betar, the ideological wing of the Revisionist Zionist Movement founded by Ze'ev Jabotinsky. In the 1940s, the IZL established its central training school there under the guise of agricultural training.

It was at Shuni that IZL carried out work to bring "illegal" immigrants into Palestine, and it was also here where some of the underground's actions were planned, including the famous attack on the Acre prison in 1947.

These days Shuni is a peaceful place, surrounded by trees, picnic tables and other facilities for visitors. As a result of the reconstruction work carried out by the Jewish National Fund, the Roman theater has been partially reconstructed and is occasionally used for performances.

The oil presses and some of the mosaics are visible, as are the rooms which date from the Byzantine period – which were used as living quarters by families from the Betar group.

At the top of the fortress is a luxury restaurant with a fine view of the surrounding countryside. Here too one may see the most recent excavations in the area across the road. The most prominent remain is a well-preserved stretch of an ancient Roman road which runs almost parallel to the present one.

The park is open from 8 to 6 on weekdays, 8to 1 on Fridays, and 9 to 6 on Saturdays.

The site itself is open from 9 to 5 on weekdays and Saturdays and 9 to noon on Fridays. A short video program is available in Hebrew and English for visitors.

Pass over the ticket line

TRAVEL TIPS

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE ultimate in frequent flying is being offered by Transaero, the private Russian airline connecting Moscow, Tel Aviv and Eilat. For $9,900 to $35,000, depending on the class, the airline will issue a flying pass, entitling the bearer to a year's unlimited flights on any of the company's routes.

Card-bearers are to have top priority for seating, even for sold-out flights. In addition to its Israel flights, Transaero flies to Berlin, Frankfurt, Paris and London, as well as Alma Ata, Kiev, Baku, Minsk, Riga and other CIS destinations. Additional domestic and foreign routes are planned.

BRITISH AIRWAYS is offering a six-night summer package to London from $650. The airline can also arrange for passengers to book seats to plays and performances in advance and pick them up upon arrival.

FOR THOSE who want to find their own budget lodgings, bed-and-breakfast is alive and well in the British capital, according to the London Bed & Breakfast Agency, which offers a wide variety of homes throughout the metropolitan area. Prices range from £15 to £30 a night. For information telephone (0044-171) 586-2768, or fax (0044-171) 586-6567.

DIESENHAUS, which is entering the Cyprus market for the first time, is offering a week in Paphos from $476, including flight, accommodation and breakfast. A three-day package starts at $325.

FROM JUNE 1, Lufthansa is to ban smoking on all its transatlantic flights, as well as on flights to the Nordic countries, the British Isles, France, Austria, Switzerland, Holland and Belgium. Since October, all of its flights in Germany have been smokeless.

FOR ARMCHAIR travelers, as well as those who want to learn about the places they are about to see, the Tel Aviv company Tmuna Tikshoret is producing Hebrew versions of video guides published by such companies as Lonely Planet, Fodor's and Video Visit. The cassettes, available at bookshops and elsewhere, sell for NIS 74 apiece.

FOR THOSE unencumbered by children in school, there are several attractive offers which end on June 15.

For example, there is a flight to New York and three nights in a Manhattan hotel for $830, from Tasim Lehofesh of Bali Tours.

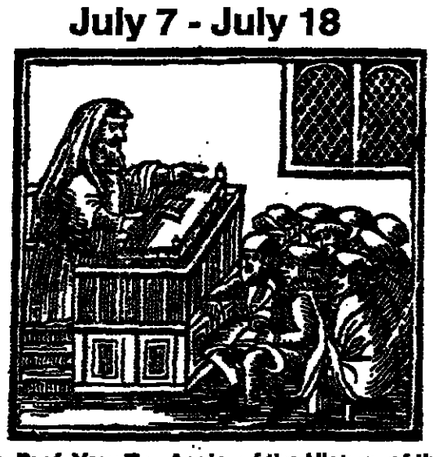
For $605, round-trip fare to Prague, Diesenhaus is throwing in four nights at a downtown hotel. The same company has a six-night package to Vienna for $659.

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General success in world assembly

Gad Ya'acobi looks back on his term as the ambassador who scaled the great stone face of the UN. He spoke with **Marilyn Henry** in New York



Ya'acobi feels that in order for his delegation to have better cooperation with the international community, it must strive 'to be a partner, rather than an object.'

GAD Ya'acobi came in with Hamas and went out with Hizbullah.

Ya'acobi, who on Tuesday ended his term as envoy to the UN, witnessed and helped shape the dramatic transformation of Israel's standing in the international community following the Oslo accords with the Palestinians.

Since 1993, Jerusalem has been establishing relations with countries at a rate that leaves observers breathless, and it now has formal relations with about 160 member states of the 185 at the UN.

But the stunning global success was bracketed by condemnation in the UN during Ya'acobi's watch, and he was often on the defensive.

In December 1992, barely two months after Ya'acobi's appointment, the Security Council condemned Israel's deportation of over 400 Palestinians to Lebanon.

On April 25, after a marathon three-day debate on the eve of Ya'acobi's departure, the General Assembly voted 64-2 for a resolution that called for an immediate halt to hostilities in Lebanon, condemned Israel's attacks on Lebanese civilians and said Israel should pay reparations.

The US was the only nation that voted with Israel to oppose the resolution. However, more states abstained than voted for the resolution, which was considered a major achievement for the Israelis.

The vote came one week after Israel and the US had triumphed in keeping the Security Council from castigating Israel for its retaliatory shelling against Hizbullah that left more than 100 civilians dead at the UNIFIL base in Kana.

"It was one of the longest days I ever knew," Ya'acobi said of that council debate. "27 speeches."

US AMBASSADOR to the UN Madeleine Albright said Tuesday in Paris that the Lebanon crisis had generated a mood that was "very unfortunate at the UN," raising the "danger of new divisions in the UN on the Middle East issue." The hostilities in Lebanon, particularly Kana, was seen as hurting US efforts to make the UN more "Israel-friendly."

In the last three years, Albright said, the US has "been working very hard to get Israel out of its isolation at the UN," and has been trying to remove some of the anti-Israel language from long-standing General Assembly resolutions.

The US has spent considerable diplomatic capital backing Israel at the UN. Last May, Washington exercised its veto in the Security Council for the first time in five years to block action against Israel's plans to expropriate 530 dunams in Jerusalem.

At the same time, with an emphatic push by the US, the UN essentially made the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty permanent by extending the pact indefinitely. Because of Washington's intervention, Israel emerged unscathed, despite intense pressure by Egypt and other Arab states for Jerusalem to sign the treaty.

Ya'acobi also believes that Israel's success in the UN of the last three years has been hurt by events in Lebanon. "But I hope it's temporary," he said in an interview in New York shortly before returning home, where he will become chairman of the Israel Electric Corporation.

"Just take into account that we now have formal and working relations with Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, Oman, Morocco, Tunisia, Djibouti, the Palestinians. Some of these contacts have been started here," he said. "These relationships will not evaporate."

SOME OF Israel's fiercest battles in the UN recently have been initiated or propelled by Egypt, including recurring resolutions on nuclear arms and the Lebanon debates. Ya'acobi has called Egypt's behavior on these issues "very antagonistic."

The evidence of Israel's new standing seemed clear in the last year when Israel had one of its few breakthroughs at the UN: the so-called "positive" resolution. The General Assembly adopted a text supporting the Middle East peace process. "It was the first time that there was a resolution that was just positive," Ya'acobi said. "All of it: its content, its message."

The crowning moment of Israeli acceptance was last October, when prime minister Yitzhak Rabin traveled to New York for the 50th anniversary celebrations of the UN. "He was one of the two, three most prominent leaders here," Ya'acobi said. "With 135 kings, presidents and heads of state here, I think he, Nelson Mandela and [Yasser] Arafat were the three the focus was on."

David Peleg, the deputy at Israel's UN Mission, will be the acting envoy until Ya'acobi's successor is named after the election. Peleg, who has a degree from the Hebrew University in the history of the Moslem people, is a career diplomat who has served in Zambia, London and the US, including as consul-general in Atlanta and minister of information at the embassy in Washington.

Ya'acobi said he was hesitant about taking this post. He was a former cabinet minister and Knesset member, not a career diplomat, and he had never lived or worked abroad for more than a few months at a time.

THESE HAVE been heady days for Ya'acobi, although he looks back at some disappointments.

As the UN prepared to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, the Israeli delegation could not mobilize unanimous support to include the word "holocaust" in the text. "We had been successful [in including] 'death camps,' 'genocide,' 'racism,' but we were not successful with the word 'holocaust,' " Ya'acobi said.

Another disappointment was during the debates on the February 1994 massacre in Hebron. The UN took a strong stance, with the Security Council condemning the attack, but not condemning Israel. In fact, Ya'acobi said, Israel's condemnation of Baruch Goldstein's actions used stronger terms than did the UN.

However, Ya'acobi said, "when I condemned this murderous event by an Israeli fanatic, I faced a mentality among some of my Arab and Moslem colleagues who believed sincerely that it was not an act of an individual or a group that was contradicting the majority of Israel, but that this was an authentic expression of the Israeli mentality.

"We couldn't convince those people, even if some of them are very friendly, that it was an act of an individual, that all of us feel about it the same as they feel about it," he said. "I think perhaps there is a mentality gap that we have to bridge gradually by much closer dialogue."

THERE WAS another, more troubling mentality gap – with segments of the American-Jewish community.

In the last three years, Ya'acobi said, his delegation has been working toward better cooperation with the international community, "to be a partner, rather than an object, to be a participant, rather than a client, to establish normal relationships with most of the member states.

"I find myself, from time to time, trying to convince the Jewish people here that to be confronted by the international community or to face permanently a conflict and animosity and a state of war in the Middle East is the worst choice from the Israeli point of view," he said. "For me, as an Israeli-born person who had traumatic memories from wars and who is looking for a normal life for Israel, for myself and my family, [peace] is a natural choice, as it is for Rabin and [Prime Minister Shimon] Peres and [Likud leader Binyamin] Bibi Netanyahu, on his terms."

But some Americans "feel much better when you are persecuted, confronted. This is their perception of the world, suffering from antisemitism, persecution," Ya'acobi said. "Sometimes, I feel myself very estranged from the feelings of some of the Jewish people."

There's no business like show (off) business

THE WEEK THAT WAS

MICHAL YUDELMAN

WITH the campaign against Hizbullah safely out of the way, the political parties stirred themselves this week to revive what had become a sleepy election campaign.

In an attempt to revive a bored public, they staged lavish spectacles but all-too-forgettable campaign jingles.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who seems to know he looks much more impressive abroad than at home, opted for a grandiose Broadway production. All the costly stage props and enthusiastic background vocals were provided on location by that great producer, Bill Clinton.

Not to be outdone, Likud decided Eurovision was the trend-setter and staged its lookalike show in Jerusalem, complete with two photogenic smiling hosts (MKs Limor Livnat and Tzahi Hanegbi), a laser light show, lots of flags, and a majestic *Aida*-style grand entrance by the star of the show, Binyamin Netanyahu.

It was supposed to be an awesome demonstration of leadership unity.

But where were Ronni Milo, Yossi Peled and Ehud Olmert, whose chairs stood poignantly unoccupied on the podium?

And trust Benny Begin to confuse the applauders by vehemently blasting those Oslo agreements Bibi had so recently recognized.

While Peres was being coddled and praised by Clinton in Washington, and blasted at home for "enlisting" the US president, the Likud also managed to "enlist" the popular American leader – if only for a fleeting moment – in its main campaign video broadcast.

The clip, unveiled for the first time, stars Bibi from beginning to end, with a fraction of a second each for his wife Sarah, Itzik Mordechai, and (don't blink) Clinton. The rest of Likud's leaders apparently didn't make the audition.

The Likud astounded listeners with a soft 'n' slow romantic campaign jingle.

The party's campaign information supremo, MK Limor Livnat, gushed that it set a new trend for election jingles and was certain to be a great hit.

The jingle coos softly of peace, unity, hope, and more peace. "It's a song for peace," Livnat explained proudly – and just in case any Likud stalwarts couldn't believe their ears.

The Likud version of the "Song for Peace" left the thousands of activists oddly unmoved at the party's rally. There wasn't a damp eye in the house and many said it put them to sleep. They much preferred the party's upbeat martial jingle from the previous election, which confusingly blared from the loudspeakers outside the Jerusalem International Convention Center (Binyenei Ha'uma).

But Labor came out with a syncopated jingle which was a faded echo of last election's onward march.

"Each party is trying to disguise itself as something else – perhaps as one another," commented one composer in a radio interview.

MASQUERADE BALL

LABOR campaign heads are filled with admiration for Bibi's acrobatic leaps and bounds towards Labor concepts and positions as he takes his cues from public opinion polls.

"Doesn't Likud have any ideas of its own?" grumbled Labor's campaign information chairman, Minister Haim Ramon, when the Likud ran off with Labor's "Peace will win" slogan and tagged "...with Bibi Netanyahu" to the end of it.

Will Likud next make off with "Peace Now" as a slogan and add his name to it, wondered Labor campaign chiefs.

While they deride this attempt "to fool all the people all the time," they privately admit to a niggling concern that an unfortunate number of the people just might buy the Likud's new clothes for some of the time – maybe until May 29.

Moledet leader MK Rehavam Ze'evi isn't one of them.

"They tell me in the Likud that to win the elections one can say anything and mean something else. The party has turned left to get the floating vote. Their PR people tell them to say that, for the street. But some of them tell me, 'Don't worry, we're really close to you.' "

Ze'evi added he would quit any government which talks to Arafat – "that war criminal and child murderer."

HEAVEN CAN WAIT

BUT neither major party can match Shas. Its spiritual mentor Rebbe Ovadia Yosef promises nothing less than the keys to heaven for his voters. But parading might not be enough, so Shas leaders are planning to arm their faithful with the "protection kit" of a blessing from Rabbi Yitzhak Kadoorie, along with good luck charms and prayers.

Shas's campaign television broadcasts will include a few strategic curses – just in case anyone might not want to vote for it....

To complete the mystical symbolism, Rebbes Yosef and Kadoorie will descend into the party's main rallies from the bellies of two helicopters.

And just to cover every option, the activists will recommend a vote for Shas and Bibi in right-wing strongholds and for Shas and Peres in left-wing neighborhoods.

ME TOO, ME TOO

THE National Religious Party has mobilized the Baba Baruch, otherwise known as Rabbi Baruch Abuhatzeira, for their television campaign. Baba Baruch, who in the past always supported Agudat Yisrael, will tell his flock to vote NRP.

Rabbis have become so popular that even Meretz has bagged a few. Yes, that Meretz!

This week Orthodox rabbi Ami Katz of Gush Etzion asked to join the party's election campaign, saying he feared a right-wing victory will lead to civil war.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid had already appointed Conservative rabbi Ehud Bandel as his advisor on religious affairs. Formerly a Labor supporter, Bandel joined Meretz for its political ideals and, is now forming a list of pro-Meretz rabbis.

RAFUL'S CHOICE

AS the floating votes waft between Labor and Likud, Tsomet leader MK Rafael Eitan has stopped dithering. Raful decided to marry his paramour Ofra Meyerson before the elections.

The ceremony is being planned with the hush-hush of a secret IDF operation, time and place being a strict secret. Raful is planning to let close friends know two hours before codewords, er, vows, are uttered.

Raful has withdrawn his promise to the Reform Movement that the Likud-Gesher-Tsomet information campaign staff would discuss the issues of alternative marriage and equal legal status for the various streams of Judaism.

Tsomet got many votes in the 1992 elections on the basis of its promise to fight against religious coercion and kept close contacts with the Reform movement.

But the Likud leadership called Raful sharply to order, and the old warhorse had to eat his words. "After the elections, if Raful wants to act independently in the matter, he may do so. At the moment the issue is not on the agenda," his spokesman said.

The right ingredients to spice up a party

GRAPEVINE

GREER FAY CASHMAN



With help from Tandoori restaurant-chain owner Reena Pushkarna, conductor Zubin Mehta had a delicious 60th birthday.

IT'S no secret that when conductor **Zubin Mehta** enthuses about tandoori cuisine, he's drooling not so much over the traditions of his native India but rather the specialities of the Tandoori chain of Indian restaurants in Israel. Mehta's wife Nancy thought that the most appropriate gift for her husband on his 60th birthday was a Tandoori feast, but when she called from Los Angeles to invite Tandoori proprietor **Reena Pushkarna** to come over and cook, the latter, despite a close friendship with the Mehtas, had to decline because her mother was unwell. But she did the next best thing and dispatched her executive chef, for whom, with a little *protekzia*, she was able to procure a visa within two hours. On reaching the US, the chef spent five days in hiding, so as not to spoil the surprise. When the maestro walked in on his celebrity-studded party, it hit a high note the instant he approached the buffet and saw the presentation. The chef had prepared all Mehta's favorite delicacies. When Nancy Mehta called Pushkarna to report, "she said it was the best surprise of all."

FORMER ARCHITECT Arieh (Richard) Larkey celebrated his 60th birthday and the 25th anniversary of his aliya by joining the circles of Israel's literati. Writing in laborious longhand, Larkey produced his first book, *A Townhouse in Jerusalem*, while sitting for long hours in his two favorite downtown coffee shops. The book, put out by Gefen Publishing House, is mostly the story of the awakening of an assimilated American Jew to his Zionist roots. The long-haired Larkey made the career switch from architect to author when a routine stress test taken two years ago revealed a 95 percent blockage in one of his main arteries. Enduring four angioplasty procedures in the space of one year, Larkey felt compelled to put pen to paper and leave something of himself to posterity. Among the people who turned up for his launch party at Tmol Shilshom cafe bookstore were his wife Sue, aliya emissary Asher Caillingold and Dave and Elsa Epstein from Ayelet Hashahar, who had been part of Larkey's aliya group a quarter of a century ago.

ONE WOULD think that the chairman of the executive board of Lufthansa would be an experienced jet-setter, but **Jurgen Weber**, on his first visit to Israel this week, admitted to being a desk man. Yes, he does fly to some of his company's destinations, but seldom gets beyond the airport. What does he intend to do when he eventually retires? "Travel and see the world."

While he was here, Weber planted a tree in the Jerusalem Forest – the first of 5,000 donated by Lufthansa to the Jewish National Fund.

WEBER WAS primarily in Israel to bid farewell to outgoing Lufthansa Israel manager **Josef Bogdanski** and to welcome his successor **Uwe Mueller**. Bogdanski did so well in his first managerial position that he has been promoted to regional manager for southeast Europe. Since the area of his responsibilities includes Israel, Bogdanski will be able to frequently bring his two sabra children back to visit. A talented composer and musician, Mueller is looking forward to accompanying his wife, an American Jewish opera singer, in a series of concert recitals – the two are bound to be popular guests on the Herzliya-Savyon-Kfar Shmaryahu cocktail circuit.

THE BEST-laid plans of mice and men – and even women – still tend to go astray. Hadassah International, at its 10th annual congress in Jerusalem, had intended to honor much-loved entertainer, humanitarian and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador **Harry Belafonte** with its Citizen of the World award, but received word two days before the ceremony that Belafonte had to undergo major surgery and wouldn't be able to come to Israel at this time. However US Ambassador **Martin Indyk** did attend Hadassah's gala reception at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, arriving only two hours after his return from Washington. Indyk was one of more than a dozen diplomats present, most of them from South American countries. Others included Egyptian ambassador **Mohammed Bassiouny**, whose wife Nagwa received a huge ovation when she asked whether everyone understood Hebrew, in which language she proceeded to deliver her greetings. South African ambassador **Malcolm Ferguson** revealed that he had met his wife Marsha in Israel when both were working here 20 years ago – she as a nurse in Tel Hashomer. Today, she's president of the Hadassah International Diplomatic Corps. Taking note of Hadassah's achievements in 34 countries, Canadian Ambassador **David Berger** quipped: "Some people think it's diplomats and politicians who run the world. Not true. It's volunteers who run the world."



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THE JERUSALEM POST

BUSINESS & FINANCE

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1996

Shohat readies plan for aid to North

EVELYN GORDON

A DETAILED plan to aid the towns and villages of the North will be presented to the cabinet on May 12, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat told the Knesset Finance Committee yesterday.

The plan will be over and above the compensation payments made to individuals and companies which suffered damage during Operation Grapes of Wrath. It is expected to consist largely of infrastructure projects for the towns – such as access roads and electricity grids – which will make them more attractive places to live.

However, committee members said, some of the residents are advocating that the aid be given directly to them instead, in the form of lower income taxes or municipal rates (*arnona*). MKs said Shohat did not rule out this idea.

The local councils have asked for special assistance for fear that unless steps are taken to make the North a more attractive place to live, the recent Katyusha barrages will result in a mass exodus of those residents who can afford to move to the center of the country, leaving the North populated only by the lower classes.

Elie Goldschmidt (Labor), at whose request the meeting was held, said Shohat told the committee he believes aid can be given within the framework of the existing budget.

Income Tax Commissioner Doron Levy told the committee that 700 compensation claims have already been settled, for NIS 18 million. In total, claims have been filed for some 1,350 apartments in Kiryat Shmona and another 100 in Nahariya, in addition to the claims for damages to industry and agriculture, he said.

Shohat said total damages are estimated to exceed NIS 100m. The Treasury does not have an exact figure, since 40 assessors are still evaluating the damages.

France's Danone to buy 20% of Strauss Dairies

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE French-based food giant Danone has signed an agreement in principle to purchase 20 percent of the Strauss group, Israel's largest privately owned food manufacturer.

Under the agreement, Danone will purchase about 20% of Strauss Dairies in Nahariya.

Industry sources said Strauss's value has been estimated at between $100 million and $120m. for the purpose of the transaction, but the company refused to comment on the sum.

Danone will appoint two representatives on the Strauss board of directors, which will give it power in formulating the diary manufacturer's business strategy.

One of the directors will remain in Israel to examine other investment possibilities here.

The firms entered serious talks about one month ago, after Danone representatives visited the Strauss dairies.

Strauss already uses the Danone brand name on some of its yogurt products.

Last year, Strauss completed a reorganization process whereby its business was separated into three manufacturing divisions – dairy, salads and ice cream.

In addition, the firm sold a 50% stake in the ice cream division to international food manufacturer Unilever. Strauss also bought a 15% stake in Elite.

Israel Phoenix '95 profits hurt by La Nationale's losses

COMPANY RESULTS

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Israel Phoenix Insurance company reported a 65 percent drop in net profits in 1995 compared with the previous year, mainly due to large losses in its subsidiary La Nationale.

The company reported a net profit of NIS 11.7 million compared with NIS 33.7m. in the previous year. Phoenix earnings, excluding subsidiaries and affiliates, almost doubled to NIS 38m. from NIS 19.4m.

The company's share in subsidiary companies losses amounted to NIS 26.1m., primarily as a result of La Nationale which ended 1995 with a net loss of NIS 177m. Phoenix indirectly owns La Nationale through its 55.5% share in Hadar, La Nationale's parent company.

Phoenix losses from subsidiary companies were partly offset by a 90% growth in profits from life insurance activities to NIS 64m. from NIS 35m. The rise was attributed to a 12% increase in life insurance premiums and a rise in earnings from investments to NIS 173m. from NIS 121m. in 1994.

The company's profits from general insurance (property) division rose 22% to NIS 11.9m. from NIS 9.6m. Premiums from life insurance rose to NIS 845m. from NIS 728m.

Phoenix shareholders equity reached NIS 254m. at the end of 1995. The company's unconsolidated turnover amounted to NIS 145b., 58% of which was from general insurance activities and the remaining 42% from life insurance.

Hadar completed 1995 with a loss of NIS 78m. from a net profit of NIS 16.2m. in the previous year. The drop was blamed mainly on La Nationale losses. Excluding losses from La Nationale, Hadar ended the year with a profit of NIS 11.4m from NIS 6.7m.

La Nationale ended 1995 with a net loss of NIS 177m. compared with a net profit of NIS 22.89m. in the previous year. Fourth quarter net losses rose to NIS 105.7m. from a net loss of NIS 22.9m.

The 1995 loss is mainly a result of a loss of NIS 178.5m. from life insurance. Total premiums from the life insurance sector plunged 70% to NIS 300m. from NIS 81m.

The losses are mainly due to cancellation of kibbutz life insurance policies and fines to subcontractors as a result of delays in premium payments.

In the directors report attached to the financial statements, management said the company will implement a reorganization plan which will include ceasing all activities with the kibbutz sector and a special emphasis on sale of life insurance policies to the general public.

Gambit Computer Communications announced a net loss of NIS 14.1m. for 1995 compared with a net loss of NIS 5.5m. in the previous year. Fourth quarter net losses reached NIS 3.9m.

The company's continued losses reduced shareholders equity to NIS 575,000. According to the company's accountants, Gambit will have to implement a reorganization plan if it wants to remain a "going concern."

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (25.4.96)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	4.825	4.825	5.000
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.125	4.250	4.500
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.750	1.750	2.000
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.375	0.375	0.625
Yen (10 million yen)	–	–	–

(Rates very higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (2.5.96)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Buy	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Sell	BANKNOTES Buy	BANKNOTES Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	3.5478	3.6051	—	—	3.5798
U.S. dollar	3.1815	3.2329	3.12	3.28	3.2120
German mark	2.0755	2.1090	2.03	2.14	2.0906
Pound sterling	4.7617	4.8386	4.68	4.91	4.8060
French franc	0.6144	0.6244	0.60	0.64	0.6188
Japanese yen (100)	3.0224	3.0712	2.97	3.12	3.0555
Dutch florin	1.8559	1.8859	1.82	1.92	1.8685
Swiss franc	2.5511	2.5923	2.50	2.63	2.5624
Swedish krona	0.4681	0.4737	0.45	0.49	0.4675
Norwegian krone	0.4632	0.4910	0.47	0.50	0.4864
Danish krone	0.5384	0.5471	0.52	0.56	0.5420
Finnish mark	0.6591	0.6696	0.64	0.68	0.6636
Canadian dollar	2.3422	2.3800	2.30	2.42	2.3643
Australian dollar	2.5260	2.5668	2.48	2.61	2.5543
S. African rand	0.7339	0.7458	0.66	0.75	0.7392
Belgian franc (10)	1.0094	1.0257	0.99	1.04	1.0158
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9488	2.9974	2.89	3.04	2.9709
Italian lire (1000)	2.0351	2.0680	2.00	2.10	2.0504
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.43	4.73	4.6092
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.90	0.98	0.9957
ECU	3.9013	3.9643	—	—	3.9297
Irish punt	4.9378	5.0175	4.85	5.09	4.9818
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4956	2.5359	2.45	2.58	2.5130

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Osem, Nestle in talks to buy Tnuva's ice cream plants

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

OSEM Industries and the Swiss Nestle company are in advanced talks to buy 51 percent of Tnuva's ice cream plants for about $16 million, Osem has informed the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Tnuva's ice cream factories include Tenne-noga and Snow-crest. The companies activities were merged several months ago.

Osem said it hopes to take advantage of Nestle's know-how and advanced production techniques and add Nestle's products to Tnuva's ice cream line. Tnuva's ice-cream sales are estimated to be NIS 130m.-NIS 140m.

The companies are also considering using Nestle's extensive overseas marketing network to export locally made ice-cream products abroad.

Tnuva manager Eric Reichman expects to conclude negotiations within a month, but no changes will occur until after the summer.

US growth surprisingly strong

WASHINGTON (Reuter) – Strong consumer spending helped boost economic growth at a surprisingly brisk pace in the first three months of 1996, after a sluggish closing quarter last year, the Commerce Department said yesterday.

The nation's gross domestic product expanded at a 2.8 percent annual rate in the quarter, compared with anemic growth of 0.5% in last year's fourth quarter.

It was a much more robust economic performance than anticipated by Wall Street economists, who had forecast a 1.8% rate of first-quarter GDP growth. The economy is expected to build more momentum in the second and third quarters.

Commerce said the surge was mostly fueled by big increases in consumer spending and by strong business investment. This was partly offset by a sharp increase in imports and lower rates of inventory-building.

Spending on new computers was notably strong both during the final three months of last year and in the first quarter of 1996. The department said that, excluding computers, GDP grew at a slower rate of 2% in the first quarter and would have contracted at a 0.3% rate in the fourth quarter.

GDP measures the value of all goods and services produced by workers and capital within US borders.

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In conjunction with the Ministry of Tourism, together with the Association for Promoting Tourism in Israel, the Jerusalem Development Authority, the East Jerusalem Development Company and the Jerusalem Hotel Association
Jerusalem Development Authority | Jerusalem Hotel Association | East Jerusalem Development Company
Jerusalem as an International Tourism Center in the Era Of Peace
Seminar and Gala Dinner, under the patronage of
Minister of Tourism, Uzi Baram
Sunday, May 12, 1996 at 6:30 p.m.
in the Teddy Auditorium, International Congress Center, Binyenei Ha'uma, Jerusalem.
in the presence of Mayor of Jerusalem, Ehud Olmert MK
Chairman: Eli Gonen, Director General, Ministry of Tourism
Speakers:
Amos Mar-Haim, Chairman of the Jerusalem Development Authority • Ya'acov Efrati, Dir.-Gen. of the Jerusalem Municipality
Amnon Lorch, Chairman of the East Jerusalem Development Co.
Gabriel Cartes, architect • Advocate Yehuda Raveh • Yossi Talgan
Guest Speaker: Benny Gaon, Managing Director of Koor Industries Ltd.
Moderator: Gad Lior, Head of the Jerusalem Bureau, Yediot Aharonot
Honorary Executive Committee (in alphabetical order):
Shaike Altuvia, Minister Uzi Baram, Yoram Belizovsky, Eliahu Ben-Elissar MK, Naomi Blumenthal MK, Doron Cohen, Ran Cohen MK, Moshe Dovrat, Ya'acov Efrati, Avi Golan, Shlomo Halevi, Tzahi Hanegbi MK , Yonatan Harpaz, Dalia Itzik MK , Yehuda Levy, Gad Lior, Amos Mar-Haim, Yehoshua Matza MK , Shmuel Meir, Eli Mizrahi, Eli Moyal, Meir Nitzan, Mayor Ehud Olmert MK, Yosef Pearlman, Adv. Yehuda Rave, Adv. Yosef Richter, Uri Scharf, Prof. Arye Shahar, Silvan Shalom MK, Adv. Yossi Shapiro,, Minister Shimon Shetreet, Matti Tal, Rafi Wiener, Avi Yehudalof, Mordechai Yona, Moshe Zigdon, Emanuel Zissman MK, Shimon Zurieli
Chairman: Israel Isaacs
Legal Advisors: Adv. Ze'ev Weil, Adv. Yitzhak Mina
Advisor for Planning and Land Development: Adv. Tamar Raveh
Accountant: Matti Ganor
The seminar is intended for:
Entrepreneurs, company presidents and directors, board members, director generals, tourism and airline companies, travel agencies, urban planners, lawyers, industrialists, deputy director generals, financial managers, architects, economists, engineers, accountants, land assessors, investment advisers, contractors, advertising agents, marketing consultants, owners of investment companies, professionals and key figures in the economy.
Those intending to participate in the Forum are requested to fill out the following form:
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I plan to attend the dinner on Sunday, May 12, 1996 at 6:30 p.m.
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Signature _____
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US dollar	NIS 3.2120	+ 0.34%
Sterling	NIS 4.8060	+ 0.49%
Mark	NIS 2.0906	+ 0.32%

INT'L STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	5493.57	-81.85
DJ Transport	2191.58	-17.78
DJ Utils	207.45	-2.51
DJ Comp	1802.68	-22.23
NYSE Industr	441.49	-6.05
NYSE Transport	332.21	-2.42
NYSE Comp	346.09	-5.44
S&P 100	619.51	-10.69
S&P Spot Index	643.1	-11.48
AMEX Comp	388.87	-4.91

NYSE stocks

	Unchanged	Advances	Declines
Share movements	+924	517	2010

Volume up (in 1000's)	70934
Volume down (in 1000's)	324618

Other stock market indexes

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	3776.4	-29.8
Tokyo Nikkei average	21662.3	-152.7
Singapore all-share index	567.73	+0
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index	10929.9	+22.8
Israel Index	187.07	-1.85

Israeli stocks in NY

	Last	Change
NYSE / AMEX		
Am Is Pap	40.625	+1.125
Ampal A	5.4375	-0.3125
Aryt	0.46875	+0
BioTechnology	7.34375	+0.40625
Carmel Cont	10.25	-0.25
Frutarom (electrochem)	2.5	+0
Elscint	14.5	-0.25
Etz Lavud	7.3125	0
Etz Lavud A	6	-0.125
Laser T.	16.375	-3
PEC	22.25	-0.125
Tadiran	23.125	-0.5
NASDAQ / over-the-counter		
AG Associates	9	+0.25
Aladdin	14.25	-0.625
Accent	44	+0
4TH. Dimension	5.625	-0.125
BVR	8	+0
Converse	23.875	-0.625
Data (Defense)	8.25	-0.125
DSP Comm.	37.375	-0.5
ECI	26.375	-0.375
Edunetics	1.90625	0
Edu-Soft	5.5	+0
Electric Fuel	7.5	+0.75
EFFI	63	+1.5
Elbit	19.5	+0.75
Elron	11.125	0
Eshed Robotec	0.4375	+0
M. Systems	6.1875	-0.0625
Gilat	23.875	-0.25
ISG	11.9375	+0.25
Geotek	10.5	-0.5
Health Tech	1.03125	+0
Home Center	5.75	-0.25
Idan	0.59375	-0.03125
IIS	2.03125	+0.03125
Indigo	13.125	+0.375
Isramco	0.53125	+0.03125
First Isr Fund	11.875	-0.125
Koor Indus.	19.75	+0.25
Lanoptics	8.625	+0.375
Magal	3.5	+0.03125
Meda-Al	0.46875	-0.1875
Mercury	12.75	-0.75
Magic	13.25	-0.125
Opal	14.875	-0.875
Orbotech	12.5	+0
Oshap Tech	3.875	-0.0625
Pharmos	2.5	+0
Rada	4	-0.1875
Scitex	19	-0.625
Sicom	3.5	0
T.A.T. Technol	15	+0
Taro Vit	6.875	+0.125
Teledata	12.5	+0.125
Telegraph	1.125	0
Tower Semicond	15.25	-0.25
Teva	44.625	-0.5
TTI	2.46875	-0.03125
Vocaltec	11.125	-3.25

(All listings are closing quotes)

Commstock Trading Ltd. (Date 2-MAY-96)

INT'L MONEY MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

		Last	Change
Pound	spot	1.5027	+0.0094
	Jun.future (CME)	1.5014	+0.0112
D-mark	spot	1.5268	-0.0066
	Jun.future (CME)	0.6555	+0.0026
S-franc	spot	1.245	-0.0054
	Jun.future (CME)	0.8054	-0.0034
Yen	spot	104.37	-0.98
	Jun.future (CME)	0.009633	+8.2e-005
CanDlr	spot	1.3625	+0.0013
	Jun.future (CME)	0.7343	-0.001
AusDlr	spot	0.7972	+0.0065
	Jun.future (CME)	0.7952	+0.0072
F-franc	spot	5.1621	-0.0228
It Lira	spot	1564.5	+0.3
Nlg	spot	1.7082	-0.01
AusShg	spot	10.7736	-0.0253
Rand	spot	4.375	+0.05
ECU	spot	1.2264	+0.0054
Bonds	Jun.future	107.438	-1.6875
S and P	Jun.future	644.3	-12.15

Libor rates

		Last	Change
Dollar	3 months	5.5	0
Dollar	6 months	5.5938	0
Dollar	12 months	5.875	0
Sterling	3 months	6.125	0
Sterling	6 months	6.1875	0
Sterling	12 months	6.4375	0
S-franc	3 months	-	
S-franc	6 months	1.875	0
S-franc	12 months	2	0
D-mark	3 months	3.25	0
D-mark	6 months	3.1875	0
D-mark	12 months	3.2813	0
Yen	3 months	0.625	0
Yen	6 months	0.8125	0
Yen	12 months	1.0938	0

(Spot market listings are from approximately 23:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

Commstock Trading Ltd. (Date 2-MAY-96)

Foreign financial data courtesy of
CommStock Trading Ltd.
Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds
34 Ben Yehuda St., Jerusalem,
Tel. 02-244963, 03-5758826
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INT'L COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities

	Last	Change
Cocoa (May) (CEC)	1378	+3
Coffee (May) (CEC)	128.25	-0
Sugar no.11 (May) (CEC)	10.51	0
Wheat (May) (CBOT)	620	-5
Soybean (Jul) (CBOT)	809.5	-8
Orange juice (May)(CEC)	129.95	-0.1
Crude oil light (Jun)(CEC)	20.88	+0.05

London commodities

	Last	Change
Cocoa (May) (LCE)	1059	+35
Coffee (May) (LCE)	1928	+9
Brent crude oil (Jun)(IPE)	1879	-2

Spot market metals (US)

		Last	Change
Gold	spot	393.85	+0.9
Silver	spot	5.37	+0

New York metal futures

	Last	Change
Gold (Jun)	395.7	+0.8
Silver (May)	5.371	-0.005
Platinum (Jul)	407.8	+1.8
Palladium (Jun)	138.25	+3
High-grade copper (May)	1.2255	-0.0035

London metal fixes

	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	392.8	+2.8
Gold PM fix	392.4	+0.1
Silver fix	544.9	+6

Month in parentheses signals contract exp. date

(Spot market listings are from aproximately 23:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

Commstock Trading Ltd. (Date 2-MAY-96)

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Commercial Banks

Name	Price	%chg
General	7545	-0.6
IndDevBK	13946	-1.7
IndDevDD		
IndDvPrD		
MersC	168.50	
MishkenC		
OHH	118781	1.2
Trade	482	
TradeC	151.60	

Mortgage Banks & Finance

Name	Price	%chg
Adanm	407537	
Carmel	389	-7.8
CarmC3	280	
FinditB	38070	-1.0
IndepMB	53207	0.7
J twnC	145.00	0.3
JlemBnk	160.00	
LeumiMBR	49480	-0.2
Mzdnv	5418	-2.0
TefahotR	180863	

Financial Institutions Insurance

Name	Price	%chg
aldcins.	164.00	-8.9
mikdashha	676	0.5
nadonale	124.00	-7.8
Ayalon	377	
AyalonC		
Elan	473	-2.1
ElanC1	273	
Hadar1	422	-3.0
Hadar5	380	-3.1
HamshmrC	232	0.9
Hamshmr1	1769	-1.2
Hamshmr5	1818	-3.0
Menorah1	845	
Menorah5	889	0.5
Phoenix1	2478	
Phoenix5	2139	
Sahar	606	3.9
Zion5	8828	

Trade & Services

Name	Price	%chg
aboodagn	64.50	
arida	1664	-1.2
glitak	555	
hashmira	432	0.2
isebarts	119.50	
kshtau	753	-2.7
maarivhld	611	0.5
rolvaya	2758	
nisco	1289	-0.5
redseand	95.50	-0.5
tachem	890	
tkl	173.00	-2.5
wilger	78.50	
BezekW2	220	0.5
BndWmC1	149.00	0.3
BndWmC2	146.00	-0.3
BondWrtn1 L	2836	-0.5
Clzg0.1	37415	
Clal Comp	24502	1.0
ClalCmpC	215	0.5
Comtec	189.50	-2.1
CorBeach	1575	1.5
Crystal	2014	3.0
Dalin1	1.90	
Danel	1225	-1.2
DanHotl1	1749	0.5
Data	515	
DCL	699	1.0
Elad	84.50	
Eltach	393	-4.0
Feldman	172.00	
Gal	285	
GenHader	251	
GenHadC	237	
GranitC1	115.50	0.4
Granit	440	
GranitW2	12.70	
Greenbrg	132.00	0.4
HGIC1	155.50	
HGIW1	3.20	6.7
HGII1	277	
Intgamat	2681	
Ingama5	2470	-1.2
ILDCHOT	314	5.7
Kind	45.50	
Kopel	172.50	
KopelC1	193.50	
Limc	1091	-1.0
Mafil	764	
Medtech	516	-0.8
MLLC1	177.00	-0.6
MLL1	147.00	
M2PK	435	
Nzuri	800	-0.7
Point sae	823	-0.5
Repac	1739	-8.0
Regency Ho	85.00	
Resnet	84.00	
RashetC1	139.00	
Team	2152	3.0
TeamC1	173.60	
Telays	885	-3.0
Topline	309	
TrendLn	840	1.0
Yead	398	2.1
YeadC1	137.50	
Yeena	581	
Yedal	700	
Yona	442	

Industrials

Name	Price	%chg
ashozshk	185.00	1.4
imco	407	
kadobrisgn	245	-2.0
ipmen	2490	
marathon	21.00	
phyton	310	-4.1
solog	589	-5.0
tomituer	464	-8.3
vermmx	48.30	-0.4
yehodast	345	
zimmetal	1139	0.5
AckersC	136.50	0.4
Aduzim1	139.00	
Alliance	754	-1.0
Alony	234	-0.8
Alumit1L	7147	
Angel	4738	-10.0
Argaman	288	-5.0
Aryt	140.00	-5.7
ArytC1	35.60	-3.2
Ashply	979	0.2
Ashplyc1	201	0.6
Ashtrom	431	
Atzmon	308	-4.9
AtzmonW1	18.80	
Azimuth	261	-0.4
Belmon	399	
Boulo	115.00	0.4
BoulosC1	218	
Brosh1	230	
CablesC3	149.50	0.3
CablesW3	90.00	-0.6
Caroline	604	-0.5
Cargal	888	-3.0
Castro	1076	0.5
Chem	212	
ClsSrC	227	0.9
ClsSr0.1	1830	
Clnd C8	178.50	
Cyclone1	1784	2.5
Cyclone5	1224	5.0
CyclonC1	181.00	
CyclonC2	63.00	-0.8
Dafronc	209	-0.5
Dafron1	1719	
Decision	217	
Degem1	344	-5.0
Delta 1	815	3.0
Delta3	781	1.0
Dexter	1887	
DubekB	10936	-0.2
DubekR	10317	-8.0
ElderTec	43.20	-0.5
Elem	218	6.3
Elcoind	7107	-0.3
Elctrcs	456	-0.4
ElectrG4	384	2.5
EshdRbc	245	-0.8
Evcol	247	-3.5
Fertlz5	427	3.1
Fert0.1	512	3.0
FeuchtW1	7510	
Five J	457	
FrutarC1	231	
FrutarC2		
GiborC1	98.00	15.4
GiborSab	154.00	3.7
GiborW2	27.00	-0.4
Golan	781	-3.1
Hatehof1	388	-0.3
Hatehof5	158.00	
Hod	218	-0.5
Holit	144.00	-8.5
IsrCarrl	2398	-1.0
Kadmany1	184.50	-5.1
Kedem	5721	-2.0
KedemC2	195.00	
Keter	434	
King1	458	8.8
KitanC1	149.50	-2.0
Kitt	1655	-0.2
Kit5	1548	
Lahish1	2374	10.6
Lipski	2647	-0.5
Lodzia1	948	
Lodzia4	880	
LuhotGal	48.40	
MacPell	297	
Magam	282	-8.1
ManC1	192.00	
Man1	97.00	
Maxima1	1092	
Maxima5	1036	
Mei Eden	1170	-1.0
Modgal	865	1.3
Mozaica1	678	-2.3
Mozaica5	565	-1.0
Multlock	868	
Neca	25815	
NecaG1	206	-1.9
NegCeram	216	
Nehusht1	721	-2.0
Nehusht5	497	-2.0
Nevot	891	-1.2
NMC	450	
Ofis	498	
Ophir	288	
Oranit	272	5.0
OranitC	112.50	
Orbit1	281	
OrdaPrnt	1694	1.0
Ortes	376	-1.8
PackerW2	2302	-7.7
PazChen	383	
Plia	884	-2.6
PolgatA	171.00	1.5
PolgatC1	209	
Polifelt	347	-10.1
Polygon	292	
PolygonC	177.50	
Poseidon	41.50	0.5
PCB	802	7.7
Rabintex	125.60	-2.3
RabincxW	8.00	
Sanlkof1	164.50	0.3
Sano1	1161	
Sano5	974	
Solan	461	1.5
Shemen	8398	
Shladot	79.50	-1.2
Spctrnx	182.00	
Sunfrost	3815	
Taal	178.00	
Tadiran	446	4.8
Taste	243	-0.8
Tedea	1569	-1.0
Tir	277	
Tobias1	736	
Toppe	43.20	
TATC1	195.50	
TAT1	324	
Unibar1	763	
Unibar5	398	-8.1
Urdan 0.1	438	-1.4
Vitalgo1	342	0.8
Vulcan	223	
VulcanC	191.00	
Wardinon	13678	-2.0
WardnW3	1693	-2.0
YtongC2		
Zaheal	154.50	0.3
Zika1	763	
Zika5	644	
Zikit1	2821	
Zikit5	2557	
ZionCab1	488	
Zoharind	254	-8.6

Property, Building & Agriculture

Name	Price	%chg
a.don	212	
alonihetz	88.00	
buildpro	840	
grandcr	71.00	-0.7
jacobahr	149.50	
pendor	379	-4.3
ravad	244	
tzamal	387	
waltson	59163	
y.stang	118.00	0.4
Adler	183.50	
Arazim	125.00	-0.8
Arazim C1	194.00	-0.8
Arledan1	983	0.5
Asals	888	
AsalsC4	155.50	
AsalsW2		
Assuta	887	
AssutaC1	224	
AzorprC1	284	-0.4
AzorProp	413	0.8
Bar—Tom1	1474	
Baranol	401	-10.1
Bayside5	24198	
BaysideC1	25049	0.5
BenYaKar	1938	-8.7
BenYaKrW1	73.50	
BenYharC	115.50	-1.7
BldgRes	1753	-0.5
BLNTIN	1146	-2.0
Cesarea1	3743	
CohenDev	287	
Contrcr	1589	
Danly	768	8.9
DanKner	1302	0.2
DanKnerC	178.00	
Darad1	111.00	
Dunbar	4747	-2.7
Engel	353	5.1
Gadt	401	-8.7
GazitW1	142.00	-15.0
GoldHous	298	
GzutC1	320	0.6
GldHousC	213	
Ispro	2814	
Israelom	1736	-0.5
IsralomC	224	
IsrasC1	210	0.6
Isras0.5	4233	
Isras1	4138	-1.0
ICP5	22879	-1.5
Jaysour1	137.50	
Jordan	349	
Lazmich	159.50	
LzmhC1	141.00	
Lzmck	287	0.7
Lifshitz1	182.50	
Lifshitz5	107.50	-1.8
Lumir1	2066	-1.0
Lwnstn1	732	
MalibuC2	148.50	
Malibu1	753	
MarLzzC2	118.60	
MarLzzW3	7.10	
Mellorox	1018	
Minrav	999	-1.5
Mishnael	41.20	3.3
MLT	1084	
MTM	1281	
NectAdv	1100	-0.3
OcifC1	145.00	0.3
OcifW1	1536	-3.0
Ofotek	792	
Oz	255	2.0
Pargod	1874	
PriCr	7051	2.0
Rassco	1197	-0.5
RedSea	425	-2.1
RogovinL	813	
Rogovin5	784	
Rolam	685	6.0
Scanda	43.70	
ScandaC	111.00	-1.3
Shaked	480	
Tashluz	300	
UnicomG1	172.00	
Unicom1	74.60	

Investment Companies

Name	Price	%chg
darban1	348	-1.4
lder	488	1.1
laya	887	
Ablac	7.50	2.7
Ackers1	1064	-1.0
Ackers2	926	-0.8
AfriaC	438	-0.9
Ampa	104324	-3.3
Arad	3395	0.8
Atlan	1404	-1.5
Aviner	2.00	-4.8
Azr aC2	189.00	-2.8
Baruch1	1156	
Baruch5	632	-0.3
Binyan	24088	-5.0
Cls50	6808	0.6
DanbarC	222	0.5
Danber1	2419	
DIKOEx1	690	5.0
Edgar	102.00	0.5
EdgarC2	154.00	
Elem	2355	5.0
Emeh	187.00	
Evergr n	1703	
ExportC4	188.00	
Gahelet	5501	-3.0
Haman	1818	
Hilan	311	
Hiron5	5081	-2.0
Iscal	724	
IsrCorp5	19376	4.5
JoelC1	192.50	
JoelC1A	193.00	
Karcam1	411	8.0
Kitel	186.00	
Magor1	2172	4.0
Magor5	1701	
MelEzra	469	-1.5
Miraga	86.50	
Moleit	235	-8.9
Naphtha	17.30	1.2
Olor	7289	
Optima	100.50	
Parna0.1	758	5.3
PazoilEx	524	
Regent1	281	-1.5
Rim1	308	
Rim4	277	
SaharDev	1527	3.5
Securita	1261	
SecuritC	138.50	
SecuritW	13.00	
SAPANHASP	873	
TzurC1	209	0.5
TzurSHmr	85.00	
Unico	3836	-0.5
Yisum	70.60	-7.8

Oil Exploration

Name	Price	%chg
MGN1	621	0.8

PARALLEL LIST

Trade & Services

Property, Building

Industrials

Name	Price	%chg
Tionveal	136.00	-0.4

Two-sided trading

	AFTERNOON			MORNING		
Name	Price	% Change	Volume Shares	Price	% Change	Volume Shares
afrisht	488	0.5		488	0.4	6793
electrac	3728	-1.0	31500	3568	-6.3	1464
Ackerlin	349	0.2	11600	348		62428
Afris 0.	346826	2.0	186	346427	1.0	52
Afrisr	309027	2.0	192	303725	0.2	63
Agan	5171	1.2	3509	5158	1.0	5866
Agis	2496		9600	2496		30904
Alrov	1250	1.2		1250	1.2	7780
Azorim	3411		7500	3411		13807
ALPM	12871	0.2	7040	12839		2620
Baran	2767		850	2767		9124
Bezek	881		400000	863	0.2	153437
Cables	1493	0.5	13000	1490	0.3	11014
Clal Ele	38243	-0.5	5715	38440		2425
Clal Tra	849	-0.5		849	-0.5	6647
Clal 10	7813	-0.5	8280	7852		8870
Clalns	1719	-1.0	11000	1698	-2.5	3581
Cldstr 5	1859	0.5		1859	0.5	7566
Clnds	1748	0.5	35000	1739		34463
CoOp	2323	-0.2	29250	2329		45129
Danbar 5	1958	3.0	14000	1959	3.0	1157
Dead Sea	913	3.0	90000	910	2.7	30222
Delek	8867	0.2	4200	8845		1591
DevMB	18082	0.2	500	18037		505
Discinv	22393	2.7	6640	22121	1.5	1177
Elbit	20083	2.0	5000	19689		1922
Elco	13483	0.2	280	13449		659
Elctr 0.	10685	1.0	900	10685	1.0	859
Elite 5	1159	-0.5	145600	1153	-1.0	30221
Elron	12141	0.5	5920	12081		2181
Export	984	1.2	18000	974	0.2	12092
FeuchtW5	7344	0.5	1250	7307		1100
Fibi	42831		1000	42831		437
Formula	2267			2267		3491
Frstint1	36128	1.2	50	36128	1.2	317
Frstint5	36750	0.5	400	36567		391
Frutarom	799	1.2		799	1.3	13865
Hapoalim	472		174800	472		172125
Hapolm	9409	0.5	1900	9382		3218
IndBldg	347	-0.5	192400	347	-0.6	156875
Isramco	1.7	2.7		1.7		1586823
IsrCorp1	21693	1.0	1080	21595	0.5	1232
IsChem	266	0.2	49000	265		99398
IDB	1235	0.5	90000	1229		54635
IDBDev	5941	1.5	10500	5882	0.5	5389
IDLC8	211			211		
ILDC	891		4000	891		24803
Jaf-ora	991	3.0	50000	986	2.5	15784
JEC	696	-1.0		696	-1.0	12880
JOEL	92.0	2.0	1694000	90.0		192952
Kardan5	345	-0.5		345	-0.6	34100
Kitan	602	3.7	112000	595	2.6	32778
Koor	30969	4.0	26260	30914	3.7	5311
Leumi	376	1.5	315000	380	2.7	55090
Makhtesh	2025	1.7	60300	1995	0.3	18575
Malibu5	741			741		28960
Maman	553	3.5	70000	549	2.8	15710
Marit1	1208			1208		8000
Mashov	350	2.7	22400	346	1.5	9595
Mehadrin	6893	1.0		6893	1.0	1096
Mishkan	29782	-0.5		29782	-0.5	228
Mivtah	1621		13200	1621		6597
NatoilDS	2.9		640000	2.9		502183
Nice1	4844		700	4844		4000
Ocif	7806	-1.0	220	7806	-1.0	800
Ormat	436			436		23355
Osem	1931	1.2	9000	1931	1.3	9269
Packer	7369	-1.0		7369	-1.0	912
Pericles	2152	0.2	3000	2147		10550
Petrchem	1693	2.2	31900	1685	1.8	24900
Piryon	8575	1.2		8575	1.3	992
PolgatB	179.0	1.5	99000	178.5	1.1	25692
Rogosin	1729	-0.5		1729	-0.5	5423
Secom	244	-1.0		244	-0.8	38311
SelaPump	19.0			19.0		134366
Shiton	10386	1.0		10386	1.0	567
Steel	203	-3.2		203	-3.3	4575
SupersIB	7100	0.7	18750	7047		5881
Tambour	700	5.2	25200	700	5.3	3250
TefahotB	172094	1.2		172094	1.3	8
Tempo1	1192	-0.7	3000	1186	-1.2	3321
Teva	144082	0.2	1598	143723		490
TAT5	179.0	4.2	150000	171.5		57234
Ytong	780	0.5		780	0.5	17113

SOURCE: ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK
THE PEOPLE YOU CAN TALK TO.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

NEW YORK

Name	Price	chg
Aca	27.5	-0.75
AMP Inc	42.25	-1.625
AMR Corp	88.5	-1.5
ASA	45	-0.625
Abbott Labs	39.875	-0.875
Acme Cleveland	30	-0.125
Advanced Micro	19.375	+0.25
Aetna Life	68.5	-2.5
Affiliated Publ	8.75	0
Aflac	30.125	-0.75
Ahmanson (HF)	23.125	-0.625
Air Prods	57.125	+0.125
Alberto-Culv B	38	-0.375
Albertson's	36.875	-0.875
Alcan Aluminum	31.875	+0
Alco Standard	57.5	+0.375
Alex & Alex	19.25	+0.25
Allegheny Power	29.25	-0.375
Allied Signal	69	-1
Alcoa	61.375	-0.625
Amax	33.5	-0.5
Amdahl Corp	12.125	-0.125
Amerada Hess	57.5	-0.25
Amer Brands	40.625	-0.75
Amer El Power	39.875	-0.375
Amer Express	47	-1.5
Amer Genl Corp	34.25	-0.5
Amer Greeting	28.375	-1
Amer Home Pr	104.625	-2.75
Amer Int'l	89.25	-3
Amer Natl Ins	68.5	+0.25
Amer Stores	32.625	-0.625
Amer T & T	59.375	-1.125
Amentech	56.625	-1.5
Ametek Inc	19	-0.125
Amgen	53.5	-4
Amoco	72.125	-0.375
Analog Devices	27	+0.5
Anheuser-Busch	68.5	-0.75
Aon Corp	52.875	-0.75
Apple Computer	23.75	-0.625
Applied Magnetics	20	-1.625
Archer Daniels	18.875	-0.25
Armco	5.5	+0
Armstrong World	58.25	-1.25
Asarco	33.125	+0
Ashland Oil	40.875	+0
AST Research	7.1875	-0.3125
Atlantic Richfld	115.875	-0.625
Auto Data Pro	37.375	-0.875
Autodesk	40.75	0
Avery Dennison	57.25	0
Avnet Inc	52.5	-0.875
Avon Products	58.75	-2.125
Avon Products	58.375	-2.125
Balmco Corp	7.125	+0
Baker Hughes	29.75	-0.375
Ball Corp	30.125	-0.375
Bally	20	-0.5
Baltimore Gas	26.25	-0.25
Banc One Corp	33.875	-1
Bandag	50.25	-0.125
BankAmerica	72.375	-3.125
Bank of Boston	46.875	-1.125
Bank of New Yk	47.5	-1
Bankers Trst NY	67.75	-1.375
Barnett Banks	62.375	-1
Battle Mount Gd	8.75	-0.125
Bausch & Lomb	39.5	-0.5
Baxter Intl	43.75	-0.75
Becton Dickinson	79	-1.75
Bell Atlantic	63	-1.75
Bell Industries	22	-0.125
BellSouth	38.125	-1.75
HA Belo Corp	38.375	-0.125
Beneficial Corp	55.5	+0.125
Berkshire H. Inc.	33500	-100
Bethlehem Steel	13.375	+0.125
Beverly Entprs	11.875	-0.1875
Biomet	14.125	-0.625
Black & Decker	39.125	-0.625
Boeing	77.25	-3.375
Boise Cascade	46	-0.375
Bowater Inc	40.25	+0.125
Briggs & Strttn	44.625	-0.875
Brist Myrs Sqb	81.25	-1
Brit Airws ADR	78.25	+0.75
Brit Steel ADR	30	-0.25
Brit Telecom	51.875	-2.375
Brooklyn Union	25.625	-0.25
Brown Group	15.5	-0.75
Brown & Sharpe	10.375	+0.25
Browning Ferris	30.25	-0.875
Brunswick	21.375	-0.125
Burlington Nthn	86.25	-1.25
CBS Inc	17.75	+0
CMS Energy Corp	28.625	-0.375
CPC Intern	67.25	-1.625
CSX Corporation	51.375	+0.25
Cabot Corp	28.875	+0.125
Campbell Soup	60.75	-1
Capital Cts ABC	-	-
Carolina Pwr Lt	35.5	-0.75
Carpenter Tech	38.625	+0.5
Caterpillar	64.625	+0
Centerior Energy	7	+0.125
Centex Corp	28.875	-0.25
Centrl & SW	27	-0.25
Ceridian	48.6	-1.375
Champion Intl	40.25	+0.125
Chrmg Shoppers	6.5	+0
Chase Manhattan	65.625	-3.125
Chemical Bkg	-	-
Chevron Corp	57	-0.625
Cheyenne Sftware	19.125	-0.625
Chiquita Brands	14.25	-0.375
Chrysler	64.625	+0.875
Chubb Corp	92.125	-1.625
Cisco	50.125	-2.125
Citicorp	77	-1.875
Clcasters	29.9375	+0
Clevld Cliffs	41.375	-0.5
Clorox	82.5	-0.5
Coastal Corp	38.5	-0.75
Coca Cola	80.375	-1.375
Coca Cola Ent	28.5	-0.625
Colgate Palmolv	75.75	-0.5
Comcast Corp A	17.125	-0.5
Compaq	46.625	-0.125
Compute Ass Intl	73.25	-0.25
Computer Sci	72.5	-2.5
Conagra	37.875	-0.375
Cons Edison	29.125	-0.25
Cons Freightways	25.5	-0.25
Cons Nat Gas	46.375	-0.25
Cons Rail	70.5	+0.125
Cooper Inds	42.75	+0.125
Coors (Adolph)	18.375	+0.375
Corning Inc	34.625	-0.125
Crane	41	-0.125
Cray Research	29.125	-0.375
Crown Cork Seal	45.25	-1.25
Cummins Engine	47.25	+0.125
Curtiss-Wright	51.125	-0.25
Cypress Semicon	14	-0.125
Cypress Mineral	28.875	-0.125
Cypress Mineral	28.875	-0.125
DSC Commun	29.125	-1.125
DQE	26.625	+0
Dana Corp	32.625	-0.25
Data General	14.875	-0.375
Dayton Hudson	98.125	-1.75
De Beers	31.875	-0.375
Deere	39.625	-0.625
Delm Pwr & L	19.875	-0.125
Delta Air Lnes	81.25	+0
Deluxe Corp	36.5	+0.125
Detroit Edison	30.625	-0.625
Dial Corp Del	28.375	-0.75
Diebold Inc	39	+0.5
Digital Equip	58.25	-2.375
Dillard Dep St	39.625	-1
Disney (Walt)	59.875	-0.625
Dominion Res	38.375	+0
Donnelley (RR)	34.875	-0.625
Dover Corp	50.25	-0.75
Dow Chemicals	89.875	+0.25
Dow Jones	38.75	-0.625
Dresser	29.75	-1.25
Duke Power	47	-0.5
Dun & Bradst	60.5	-0.625
Du Pont	78.875	-1
E G & G Corp	21.5	+0.125
Eastern Ents	35.375	-0.875
Eastman Kodak	76.75	-1.25
Eaton Corp	60.125	+0.25
Echlin Inc	34.875	+0.5
Emerson Elec	83.25	+0
Engelhard Corp	25	-0.125
Enron Corp	39.5	-0.75
Enserch Corp	21.5	-0.125
Entergy Corp	28.25	-0.25
Enzo Biochem	17.5	-0.5
Ethyl Corp	10.375	+0
Exxon	82.875	-0.75
FMC Corp	68.125	-0.5
FPL Group	42.875	-0.375
Federal Express	79.125	-0.875
Federal Mogul	19.125	+0.125
Fed Nat Mtge	29.5	-1.125
Federal Ppr Bd	-	-
Fieldcrest Can	20.75	-0.125
First Bank Sys	59	-1.25
First Chicago	40	-0.875
First Interst	-	-
First Union	60.375	-1
Fruit of the Loom	26.875	-0.25
Fst Mississippi	23.125	-0.125
Fst Union Rlty	7.125	+0
Fleet Finl Grp	42.375	-0.625
Fleetwd Enterp	28	-0.75
Fleming Cos Ok	13.5	+0
Florida Prog	32.875	-0.375
Fluor Corp	63.625	-1.75
Food Lion Inc	7.3125	+0
Ford Motor	35.75	-1
Foster Wheeler	48	-0.625
Freeport McMor	36.625	-0.125
Freeport McMcr	36.625	-0.125
Galoob Toys	19.875	-0.625
GATX Corp	44.75	-0.5
GTE Corp	41.75	-1.75
Gannett	68.125	-0.75
Gap Inc Del	29.625	-0.75
Gencorp	13.125	+0.125
Gen Am Invest	21.5	-0.375
Gen Dynamics	63.375	-1.375
Gen Electric	77.625	-0.25
Gen Mills	56	-1.25
Gen Motors	54.625	+0.125
Gen Motors E	58.5	+0.125
Gen Motors H	60.375	-0.875
Gen Public Util	31.25	-0.5
Gen Reinsurnce	140.875	-1.875
Gen Signal	38.5	-0.375
Gen DataComm	13.375	-0.5
Genuine Parts	43.625	-0.375
Georgia Pac	77.375	-0.125
Gillette	53.25	-1.125
Glaxo ADR	23.875	-0.75
Golden W Finl	50.375	-2.625
Goodrich (BF)	39.125	-0.5
Goodyear Tire	52.75	+0
Grace (WR)	75.5	-1.375
Grainger (WW)	68	-0.75
Grt Atl Pac Tea	35.125	+0
Grt Western Finl	22	-0.875
Halliburton	53.25	-3.375
Hanna (MA)	35	-0.25
Harcourt	44.125	-0.5
Harley Davidson	45	+0.375
Harnischfeger	40.375	-0.125
Harris Corp	62.5	-0.25
Hasco Corp	69	-0.5
Hartmax	5.5	+0.125
Hasbro	37	-0.25
Hecla Mining	7.25	-0.375
Heinz (HJ)	33	-0.75
Helix Technol	36.25	+0.25
Hmrch & Payne	36.75	-0.5
Hercules	59.875	-1.25
Hershey Foods	75	-1.375
Hewlett Packard	104.25	-1.125
Hilton Hotels	104.5	-0.75
Home Depot	48.625	-0.75
Homestake	19.625	-0.25
Honeywell	52.6	-0.25
Hormel (Geo)	28.375	-0.625
Household Intl	66.25	-2.375
Houston Inds	21.5	-0.5
Humana	24	-0.125
IBM	108.125	+0.25
Illinova Corp	25.375	-0.125
Illinois Tool	67	-0.375
INCO	33.875	+0
Ingersoll Rand	39	-0.375
Inland Steel	24.125	-0.5
Intel Corp	68	+0.125
Intergraph	12.875	+0.125
Interlake	2.75	-0.125
Intl Fmly EntB	15.75	-0.375
Intl Flav & Fr	47.25	-0.875
Intl Multifoods	18.75	+0
Int Coln Envgy	5.125	+0.125
Intl Paper	40.375	+0
Interpublic	45.625	-0.5
ITT Corp	60.25	-1.125
James River Bs	28	-0.375
Jefferson Plt	51	-1.5
Johnson & J	89.625	-3.125
K Mart	10.25	-0.125
Kellogg	68.875	-1.25
KLA Instruments	30.125	-0.375
Kennametal	36.875	-0.875
Kerr-McGee	62.375	-1
KeyCorp	37.625	-0.875
Kimberly-Clark	70.5	-1.875
King World Prod	43	+0
Knight Ridder	71.875	-0.875
Kroger	39.625	-0.25
Kroger	39.625	-0.25
LSI Logic	36.75	-0.375
Legget & Platt	25.25	-0.5
Leucadia Natl	28	-0.375
Lilly (Eli)	58	-1.75
Limited Inc	20.125	-0.375
Linear Technol	32.625	-1.4375
Lincoln Natl	48.5	-1
Litton	43.875	-0.5
Liz Claiborne	35.25	-1.125
Lockheed Corp	81.5	-0.625
Loews Corp	76	-2
Lone Star	35.75	-0.25
Long Island Lt	16.25	-0.125
Longs Drug Strs	44.25	-0.75
Loral Corp	-	-
Louisiana Land	54.625	-0.125
Louisiana Pacif	25.375	+0.125
Lowe's Co Inc	31.875	-1.625
Lubrizol	29	-0.125
MCI Commun	28.25	-1.375
Manor Care	39.875	-0.625
Manville Corp	-	-
Mapco Inc	57.5	-0.625
Marriott	48.875	-1.75
Mrsh & McLn	93.875	-0.5
Martin Marietta	173.5	-1.5
Marvel	9.75	-0.125
Masco Corp	27.625	+0.625
Massmutual Corp	35.125	-0.625
Mattel Inc	28.5	-0.5
May Dept St	50.375	-0.875
Maytag Corp	21.875	-0.25
McDermott	20.5	-0.375
McDonalds	47.25	-1.625
McDonnell Dglas	94.25	-1.5
McGraw Hill	45.375	-0.125
McKesson Corp	47.5	-0.375
Mead Corp	58.25	+0.125
Medtronic	50.125	-2.5
Mellon Bk	51.875	-1.75
Melville Corp	38.75	-0.25
Mentor Graphics	15.5625	-0.3125
Mercantile Stes	60.375	-2.125
Merck Inc	59.625	-2
Meredith Corp	44.875	-0.75
Merrill Lynch	57.875	-2.75
Micron Technol	37.125	+0.5
Microsoft Corp	111.625	-3.5
Millipore	44.25	-0.625
Mine Safety App	43.5	-1.5
Minnesota Mine	63.375	-0.5
Mitchell Energy	16.25	-0.25
Mobil Corp	112.625	+0
Mobile Telecom	14.375	-0.375
Molex Inc	29.75	+0
Monarch Macht	10.875	+0.125
Monsanto	154.25	+3
Morgan (JP)	83	-1.5
Morton Intl	35.375	-0.375
Motorola Inc	60.75	-0.875
Murphy Oil	44.75	-0.375
Murphy Oil	44.75	-0.375
Nacco Inds	62.625	-0.75
Nalco Chemical	30.375	-0.125
Nashua Corp	14	-0.5
Natl City Corp	35.375	-0.625
Natl Semi	16	+0.25
Natl Serv Ind	38.875	-0.125
NatWest Bank	55.75	+0.25
Navistar Intl	11.5	-0.5
Netscape	58.25	-2.875
New England El	34.75	-0.375
News Corp	23.25	-0.125
NY State El Gas	23	-0.125
NY Times A	32.75	+0
Newmont Mining	57.5	-0.125
Niag Mohawk	7	-0.25
Nicor Inc	27.375	-0.875
Nike Inc	87.5	-1
NL Industries	14.625	+0.125
Noble Affil	34.875	+0
Nordstrom	50.375	-1.375
Norfolk Southrn	83.75	+0.875
Northeast Util	15.5	-0.25
Novell	13.875	-0.75
Nthn State Pwr	48.5	-0.5
Northrop	61.375	-0.375
Norwest Corp	34.625	-1.5
NSI	20	+0
Nynex Corp	47.625	-1
Nynex Corp	47.625	-1
Occidental Pet	25.5	-0.25
Ogden Corp	19.875	-0.125
Ohio Casualty	34.5	+0.25
Ohio Edison	20.875	-0.375
Olin Corp	89.75	+0.75
Omnicom Group	42.125	-0.625
Oneok Inc	25.875	-0.625
Oracle Systems	32.875	-1.25
Oryx Energy Co	16	+0
Oshkosh Bgosh	15	-0.125
Outboard Marine	19.375	-0.125
Overseas Ship	19.5	-0.75
Owens Corning	38	-0.875
PHH Group	55.625	-1.25
PNC Financial	29	-1.125
PPG Industries	50.75	+0.125
Paccar Inc	48.25	-1.75
Pacificorp	20	+0.125
Pac Enterprises	25.375	-0.625
Pac Gas & Elect	22.375	-0.125
Pac Telesis	33.875	-0.375
Pall Corp	27	-1.25
Panh Eastern	32.25	-0.25
Parker Drilling	7.25	-0.25
Parker Hannifin	42.125	-0.25
Penney(JC)	50.875	-0.375
Pennsyl Pwr Lt	22.5	-0.375
Pennzoil	43	-0.75
People's Energy	31	-0.5
Pepsico	63	-1
Perkin Elmer	54	-1
Petrie Stores	-	-
Pfizer	66.875	-1.75
Pharmacia & Upj	37.5	-0.625
Phelps Dodge	73.5	-1
Philadel Elec	24.625	-0.375
Philip Morris	88.5	-2.125
Phillips Pet	39.625	-0.625
Pioneer Hi Bred	54	-1
Pitney Bowes	48.75	+0
Policy Mgt Sys	48.125	-0.25
Potash Corp	70.875	-0.25
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Procter & Gamble	83.25	-1.5
Pub Svc Enterpr	25.875	-0.25
Pug Snd Pwr	23.875	-0.125
Pug Snd Pwr	23.875	-0.125
Quaker Oats	33.875	-0.25
Qualcom	38.5	-0.75
Quanex Corp	22	+0
RJR Nabisco	30.125	+0.375
Ralston Purina	57.25	-1.125
RankOrgnsn ADR	16.375	+0.5
Raychem Corp	78.75	-1
Raytheon	50.75	-0.375
Reebok Intl	28.75	+0
Reynolds Reyn A	45.625	-0.25
Reynolds Metals	53.5	-0.375
Rite Aid Corp	29.125	+0
Roadway Services	38.375	-0.625
Rockwell Intl	59.625	-0.25
Rohm & Haas	68.5	+0.625
Rohr Industries	17.75	-0.25
Rouse	28	-0.375
Rowan	13.625	-0.25
Royal Dutch	139.75	-1.5
Rubbermaid	28.125	-0.125
Ruddick	12.875	-0.125
Russell Corp	25.375	+0
Ryder System	29	-0.125
Rymer Co	0.75	+0
Rymer Co	0.75	+0
SPS Technology	64.5	+0
Safeco Corp	31	-1.125
Safety-Kleen	14.75	-0.125
St Paul's Cos	81.75	-1.25
Salomon Inc	39.5	-1.6875
San Diego Gas	21	-0.625
Sara Lee Corp	30.875	-0.25
Seacorp	-	-
Schering Plough	55.375	-1.375
Schlumberger	86.125	-1.375
Scientif Atlanta	18.125	-0.625
Scripps	42.5	-0.375
Seagate Tech	59.5	-1.25
Seagram	33.125	-0.5
Sears Roebuck	50	-1
Service Corp I	51.625	-1
Service Mastr	31.875	+0
Shared Medical	65.375	-3.625
Shell Trans	78.25	-1
Sherwin Wllms	46.875	-0.875
Shoney's Inc	11.875	+0.125
Sigma Aldrich	51	-1.75
Silicon Graphics	28.125	-0.75
Skyline Corp	24	-0.5
Smith Intl	28.5	-0.625
SmKline Bchm A	51	-3.5
Snap-On-Tools	48	-0.375
Sonat	42.75	-0.75
Sonoco Prods	28.25	-0.25
Sony Corp ADR	68.625	-0.625
Southdown	22.5	-0.75
Southern Co	21.75	-0.125
Sth N. Eng Tel	43.25	-0.375
Soutw Airlines	29.625	-0.125
Southwestn Bell	49.5	-0.625
Spring Inds	46	-0.75
Sprint Corp	41.875	-0.375
Stand Brnds Pnt	-	-
Standard Prods	28.125	+0.125
Stanley Works	61.75	-0.375
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Stratus Comp	27.75	-0.125
Sun America	5.75	+0
Sun Company	30.5	-0.25
Sundstrand	35.5	-1.125
Sun Microsystms	57	+1.375
Suntrust	66.875	-1.25
Supervalu	31.75	-0.125
Symantec	15.5	-0.5
Sysco Corp	31.125	-0.5
Sysco Corp	31.125	-0.5
TJX Cos Inc	30	+0.125
TRW Inc	95.5	+0.5
Tambrands	47	-0.625
Tandem Comp	12.625	+0
Tandy Corp	52.25	-0.625
Telecom Corp	19	-0.75
Teledyne	38	+0.375
Temple Inland	48.25	+0.125
Tenneco	54.125	-0.625
Teradyne	21.5	+1
Tesoro Pet	10.75	+0
Texaco	84	-0.75
Texas Instrmnts	59.875	+0.25
Texas Utilities	39.5	-0.75
Textron	84.75	-0.875
Thiokol	41.5	-0.625
Thomas & Betts	39.875	-0.125
ThreeCom	47.125	-1
Time Warner	40.5	-0.5
Times-Mirror	42.375	-0.625
Timken	39	+0
Torchmark	42.375	-0.875
Tosco Corp	53.5	+0.125
Total Pet N Am	12.5	+0.125
Toys R Us	28.5	-0.375
Transamerica	74.875	-1.125
Transco Energy	41.875	-0.75
Travelers Grp	59.125	-1.75
Tribune	69	-0.875
TRINOVA Corp	34	-0.125
Triton Energy	32.625	-1.25
Tyco Labs	38.125	-0.625
Tyler	2.75	+0
UAL Corp	211.25	-3.125
USG Corp	24.875	-1
UST Inc	31.875	-0.5
USX Marathon	21.125	-0.5
USX-US Steel	32.875	+0.375
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Unilever NV	73.75	+0.125
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Union Carbide	45.125	-0.875
Union Electric	38.375	-0.5
Union Pacific	68.625	+0
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USF&G Corp	15.75	-0.125
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Xerox	149.125	+0.75
Yellow Freight	12.125	+0
Zenith Electron	12.875	+0.625
Zero Co	17.625	-0.125

LONDON

Name	Price	chg
Allied - Lyons	495	-4
BAT Inds	500	-5
British Petrol	106.75	-0.75
BT	352	-9
BTR	316	-2.5
Barclays	740.5	+1
Bass	773	-11
Boots	627	-11
British Airways	524	+5
British Gas	231.5	-3
General Electric	355	-2
Grand Met	429	-4
Glaxo	814	-4
Guinness	478	-6
HSBC (75p shs)	974	-10
Hanson	186.5	-1.5
ICI	892	-10
Land Securities	654	-1
Lloyds Bank	314	+1
Marks & Spencer	427.5	-11
NatWest Bank	626	+5.5
Prudential	460	-3
Reuters	750	-9
Sainsbury	388	-4.5
Shell Transport	865	-12
Unilever	1210	+8

PARIS

Name	Price	chg
Accor	710	-8
Air Liquide	938	-11
Alcatel Alsthom	466.5	+0.5
BSN	800	+18
Canal	1241	-26
Carrefour	2718	+23
Chargeurs	1389	+14
Club Med	468	+8
Cred Lyon (CI)	178.9	+4.4
Elf Aquitaine	384.9	+0.6
Euro Disney	15	-0.4
Hachette	136.2	+0.2
LVMH	1327	+5
Lafarge Coppee	325.1	-5.9
Lyona Eaux	533	+14
Michelin B	254.7	-1.4
Moulinex	88	+2
Paribas	311	-8.4
Pernod Ricard	333.2	+1
Peugeot	731	+9
Saint Gobain	615	-4
Suez (Fin de)	485	+20.2
Total B	349	-1.7

FRANKFURT

Name	Price	chg
Allianz AG	995	+0
BASF	418.1	-1.9
Bayer	493.6	+0.8
Commerzbank	2.1	+0.1
Daimler-Benz	884	-4.5
Deutsche Bank	73.23	-0.14
Dresdner Bk	38.4	-0.12
Hoechst	494.2	-21.4
Lufthansa	248.5	+3.7
Mannesmann	525.5	+2.5
Metallgesellschaft	28.8	+0.02
Porsche	855	+18
Siemens	85.17	-758.13
Volkswagen	524	-4.5

Commstock Trading Ltd.

Weaker shekel boosts stocks

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL

205.91 +0.86% **Two-Sided Index**

216.66 +0.98% **Maof Index**

STOCKS rose yesterday almost one percent as the shekel weakened further against the US dollar, improving the outlook for profits for exporting companies.

The currency "is the significant thing," said Eli Nahum, head of trading at Zannex Securities in Tel Aviv.

The Two-Sided Index went up 0.86% to 205.91, while the Maof Index rose 0.98% to 216.66.

On the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 83.5 million of shares traded. That's 13% greater than the average day last month. In the broad market, six issues fell for every five that rose.

Research by Zannex Securities shows, for example, that "every 1% devaluation in the shekel means 5% increase" in net income for Makhteshim, the chemicals company, Nahum added.

Makhteshim shares rose 1.75%. Rival chemical makers also advanced: Israel Chemicals edged up 0.25%, Agan added 1.25%, and the Dead Sea Works jumped 3%.

The most active issue yesterday was Koor Industries Ltd., Israel's largest industrial company, with some three dozen businesses. Its shares added 4% to NIS 9.8m. of shares traded.

Koor stock rose following Wednesday's gain of 3/4 to 19 1/2 for the company's American Depositary Receipts, Nahum added. Koor also is a major exporter: more than a third of its $3.26 billion of 1995 sales were exports.

Tadiran Ltd., a Koor subsidiary that exported 25% of its 1995 sales of $1.05b., rose 1.25%. Tadiran also has received two contracts in recent days, from the government and the US Army.

Israeli stock prices are also being driven by trading in New York, where a resurgence of interest in technology stocks helps shares traded in Tel Aviv, Nahum said.

Among actively traded issues:

Osem Investments Ltd., with food interests, added 1.25%.

Elbit Ltd., with interests in medical equipment, defense contracting, and television manufacturing, added 2%. Elron Electronic Industries Ltd., which holds 40% of Elbit, added 0.5%.

Among the banks, Discount Bank and Bank Leumi rose 0.75% and 1.5% respectively. First International and Bank Hapoalim were unchanged.

Blue Square, the operator of Co-op Supermarkets, slipped 0.3%, while rival Supersol rose 0.8%.

Kitan, which runs a chain of clothing and houseware stores, advanced 3.8%. (Bloomberg)

Eurobourses end lower after strong US data

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuter) – European bourses pared opening gains in afternoon trading to close well down yesterday, as Wall Street slipped on yet another set of strong US economic data.

The Dow Industrial Index fell a quick 40 points on opening as players digested new data putting US economic growth at an unexpectedly rapid 2.8 percent in the first quarter.

Weekly US unemployment claims data out yesterday were also short of expectations, 348,000 against a foreseen 368,000, confirming yet again a picture of strong US growth, pushing bond prices down, and yields up to year-highs.

The London Stock Exchange lost all earlier vigor, as British bonds followed US Treasuries and shares took their lead.

The FTSE Index slid below the psychologically-important 3,800, as American GDP data sparked interest rate fears, knocking shares, bonds and gilts.

Concern ahead of the US employment report today was combined with some caution over local elections, in which the ruling Conservatives were expected to perform poorly.

German shares tumbled on the US news, dragged down by futures. A US Treasuries-led decline in German government bonds, or Bunds, sparked the slump.

The fall broke DAX Index support at 2,480, and now dealers see a risk of the index free-falling to 2,450 points from around 2,495 earlier.

The Paris bourse opened at a new high for the year, although index heavyweight Credit Foncier was suspended limit-down twice and failed a third attempt to requote. It was initially suspended on Monday after announcing losses of FR 10.8 billion. The Paris bourse's CAC-40 had slipped back to trade weaker.

The US Treasury selloff and a resurgent yen put pressure on the dollar in European afternoon trading, dragging it back below 105 yen, and off 15-month highs against the mark.

Additional pressure came from a strong jump in German March industrial production data, which put a note of caution on some players' pessimism about the German economy, analysts said.

Interest sends stocks down

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) – Stocks plunged yesterday, as interest rates soared amid new signs of rapid economic growth that fueled inflation worries on the eve of a pivotal employment report.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 76.95 points to close at 5,498.27, after sliding about 100 points late in the session. The blue-chip average had stabilized at a loss between 20 and 30 points around midday, but another wave selling in the bond market spurred a steeper drop in stocks.

Bond prices started tumbling yesterday after the Commerce Department reported that the gross domestic product – the nation's total output of goods and services – sprang back to life in the first three months of the year, growing at an annual rate of 2.8%.

Among NYSE issues, 557 rose, 2,012 fell, and 586 were unchanged. Volume totaled 440.00 million shares as of 4 p.m., vs. 403.30 million in the previous session.

The NYSE's composite index fell 5.32 to 346.21. The Standard and Poor's 500-stock index fell 11.20 to 643.38.

The Nasdaq composite index fell 20.12 to 1,179.53. The Russell 2000 fell 4.34 to 345.94.

At the American Stock Exchange, the market value index fell 4.81 to 588.97.

CURRENCY CROSS RATES

	MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFr	FFr
MARK	—	0.4349/54	68.27/30	0.8146/48	3.3753/68
STERLING	2.2976/85	—	156.85/87	1.8709/34	7.7521/16
YEN	1.4636/55	0.6368/78	—	1.1920/41	4.9397/73
SFr	122.69/83	0.5339/46	83.80/95	—	4.1405/86
FFr	0.2961/64	0.1288/90	20.20/25	0.2412/15	—

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BEAUTIFUL SHORT + LONG term apartments near the sea - rentals/sales. AUSSIES REALTIES (MALDAN). Tel. 03-5468739.

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BEAUTIFUL VILLA, 250 SQ.M. built, 1,000 sq.m. plot, Ramat Hasharon, excellent location, high standard.. "KAV HAYAM". TEL. 03-5239988.

BEST APARTMENTS, BEST locations, Best prices, short/long-term rentals. Tel 03-623-8180

GIVAT&YIM, SHCHUNAT BOROCHOV, 5, furnished, 3rd floor + elevator, parking, immediate for one year, $1,400. Entire year in advance. 03-6057235, 9:00-13:00, no agents.

IN OPERA TOWERS, 3 bedrooms, sea view, $2,800- ask for Ilana. Anglo-Saxon. Tel. 03-5467722.

LUXURIOUS, SPACIOUS, 5 room apartment, Azorei Chen, doorman, Country Club, immediate. Tel. 03-6968785 (eve.).

PENTHOUSE, VIEW TO SEA, 12 Frischman, Tel Aviv, central air conditioning, + parking, immediate. Tel. 03-6952894, 050-319111.

TEL AVIV, DREAM penthouse! Fully furnished, highest quality. GISSELE. Tel. 03-5245032.

SALES

VILLAS, RAMAT HASHARON; 240 m. built on 1,100; Ramat Gan-Tel Ganim; 220 on 700. + penthouses! 050-300640

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MOSHAV NEAR SAVION, new villa, American-made, luxurious, 260m built on 700 m. + pool, large garden, country view, quiet, $850,000. Tel. 052-638851

NORTH TEL AVIV, 4 room apartment, big living room, renovated, $410,000. "GIRSCH". Tel. 03-5444331.

DWELLINGS
Tel Aviv

2 ROOMS, LUXURIOUS, FURNISHED, air conditioned, near beach. Tel. 03-5504643, Fax: 03-7520030.

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Fax 02-259-330

NEXT TO RAMAT GAN, 2, for couple. $50\day. May - Aug. Tel. 03-673-9385, Fax 03-9334292.

HOLIDAY APARTMENTS, SHORT\LONG term, near seashore "MOAR". Tel. 03-6994130, 03-69970127212.

STUDIO PENTHOUSE, LUXURIOUS, Gan Ha'ir , $300\ per week. Tel. 03-5245686, 052-505655.

TEL AVIV APARTMENT, fully equipped, beach, hotel area. June-August, Tel\fax 03-5222492.

TEL AVIV (NEAR THE BEACH), 2, short term\long term, furnished, fully equipped. Tel. 03-5467629 (day), 09-587278 (eve.).

RENTALS

IN SEA-AND-SUN, NEW and furnished apartment, immediate. Tel. 050-267-526.

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RELIGIOUS SERVICES
TORA PORTION : *Emor*

HAIFA-CHRISTIAN

BEIT ELIAHU (EVANGELICAL Messianic Congregation) Haifa, 43 Meir Street, Tel. 04-523581.

JER.-CHRISTIAN

SUNDAY, 6 P.M.
Pentecostal Worship Service, Mt. Zion Fellowship, 7:30 p.m. Frl., Sat.,Sun. Tel. 02-828964.

REDEEMER CHURCH , Lutheran, Muristan Rd. Old City, Jerusalem. Sunday services: English 9:00 a.m. German 10:30 a.m. Tel 276111,281049.

KING OF KINGS ASSEMBLY,YMCA Auditorium, 26 King David St., Sunday 4:30p.m. and 7:00p.m. Tel. 02-610-017.

JERUSALEM

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE, 13 King David St. Shabbat morning service, 9:30 a.m.

MORESHET YISRAEL – Conservative 4 Agron. Dr. Avraham Feder, Rabbi. Fri. Afternoon Mincha 6:30 p.m. ;Shacharit 8:30 a.m., Mincha 6:15 p.m. Daily Minyan 7:00 a.m.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

TEL AVIV-CHRISTIAN

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE (THE Redeemed Christian Church of God). Services: Fridays 6.00 p.m. and Saturdays 4.00 p.m. Venue: City Hotel, 9 Mapu Street, off Ben-Yehuda Street, Tel Aviv.

BAPTIST VILLAGE CONGREGATION, 3 km. north of Petah Tikva, near Yarkon Junction. Sabbath Bible study Saturday 9:45 a.m. Worship hour, 10:45 a.m. Tel. 09-574661

Immanuel Church (Lutheran), Tel Aviv-Yafo,15 Beer Hofman (near 17 Eilat Street). Tel. 03-5820654 Saturday service 11 a.m. Service in English every Sunday at 10 a.m.

WHERE TO GO

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WHERE TO GO

HEBREW UNIVERSITY. All campuses of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem are closed for the week of Passover. Regular tours of the Mount Scopus campus will resume on Thursday, April 11.

GENERAL

AMIT WOMEN: See Israel's future. Visit our projects. Sun-Thurs. a.m. - Jerusalem 02-619222- Tel Aviv 03-5272528

WHERE TO GO

HAIFA

WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-374253.

JERUSALEM

CONDUCTED TOURS
Tourists and Visitors. come and see the General Israel Orphans Home for Girls, Jerusalem,its manifold activities,and impressively modern buildings. Free Guided tours weekdays, 9-12.Bus no. 14, 24 or 5, Kiryat Moshe. 523291.

WHERE TO GO

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ARTGUIDE

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ART GUIDE

HAIFA

THE REUBEN AND EDITH HECHT MUSEUM. (Haifa University). Permanent exhibition:The People of Israel in Eretz Yisrael - Phoenicians on the Northern Coast of Israel in the Biblical Period - Caesarea - a Mercantile City by the Sea - Impressionism and the Jewish School of Paris. Open Sun., Mon., Wed., Thur. 10-4; Tue. 10-7. Fri. 10-1. Sat.10-2 ADMISSION FREE.

ART GUIDE

JERUSALEM

Museums
OLD YESHUV COURT MUSEUM. Life in the Jewish community in the Old city, mid-19th century – World War II. 6 Or Hahaim, Jewish Quarter, Old City. Sun.-Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

ART GUIDE

TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART. Eight in November – Gliksberg, Gross, Reisman, Shelesnyak, Almog, Berest, Gal, David Van Dyck and his Collections. HELEN RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Hours: 10:00 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue.,10a.m.,-10 p.m. Fri., Sat., 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Art Education Center, closed for renovations. Tel. 6919155/6/7.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

GENERAL ASSISTANCE EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Friday, May 3
Jerusalem: Jaffa Gate, 283898; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 272315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 810108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 282058.
Tel Aviv: Milano Square, 1 Yehuda Hamaccabi, 604-2308; Pe'er Market, 61 Yehuda Hayamit, 682-2973.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Bar-Ilan, 29 Bar-Ilan, Ra'anana, 443579.
Netanya: Neot Shaked, Ezorim Commercial Center, 352484.
Krayot area: Harman, 4 Simtat Modi'in, Kiryat Motzkin, 870-7770.
Haifa: Massada, 30 Massada, 866-5806.
Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 558472, 558407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.
Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 570468. Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, May 4
Jerusalem: (day) Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A, 3 Avigdori, 708660; (evening) Center Pharm, Har Hahotzvim, 869744; (day and evening) Balsam, Salah e-Din, 272315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 810108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 282058.Tel Aviv: Bloch, 32 Bloch, 522-6425. Till midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, Ramat Aviv, 641-3730; Superpharm London Ministore, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 696-0115.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: (day) Medicstore, Tchernichowsky, Kar Sava, 457034; (evening) Avner Gilad, 34 Weizmann, Kfar Sava, 426826.
Netanya: Hasharon Mall, Herzl, 617786.
Krayot area: Harman, 4 Simtat Modi'in, Kiryat Motzkin, 870-7770.
Haifa: Hanassi, 33 Hanassi, 833-3312.
Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 558472, 558407. Open 10 a.m. to midnight.
Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 570468. Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS
Friday, May 3
Jerusalem: Hadassah Mt. Scopus (internal, obstetrics); Shaare Zedek (surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology); Hadassah Ein Kerem (pediatrics); Bikur Holim (ENT).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

Saturday, May 4
Jerusalem: Bikur Holim (internal, ENT); Shaare Zedek (surgery, orthopedics, obstetrics, pediatrics); Hadassah Ein Kerem (ophthalmology).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE 100

FIRE 102

In emergencies dial 102. Otherwise, dial number of your local station as given in the front of the phone directory.

FIRST AID 101

Magen David Adom
In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition:

Ashdod* 551333, Ashkelon 551332, Beersheba* 274767, KfarSava* 902222, Naharlya* 912333, Netanya* 604444, Beit Shemesh 523133, Dan Region* 5793333, Eilat* 332444, Haifa* 8512233, Jerusalem* 523133, Karmiel* 9985444, Petah Tikva* 931111, Rehovot* 451333, Rishon* 9642333, Safed 920333, Tel Aviv* 5460111, Tiberias* 792444

* Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.

Medical help for tourists (in English) 177 022-9110.

The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital, phone 04-8529205 for emergency calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Eran – Emotional First Aid. Jerusalem 610303, Tel-Aviv 5461111 (children\youth 6961113), Haifa 8672222, Beersheb 281128, Netanya 625110, Karmiel 9988410, Kfar Sava: 974555, Hadera 346789.

Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 5234819, 5449191 (men); Jerusalem 255558, Haifa 8660111, Eilat 31977.

Emergency line for women in distress Sunday-Thursday 24 hrs. a day; Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 09-505720.

Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-6514111; 03-5461133 (also in Russian 07-376310, 08-550506 (also in Amharic).

Kupat Holim Information Center 177-022-1906, Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hadassah/Jerusalem Municipal Realt Center for Adolescents, 6 Chile St Kiryat Hayovel, Jlm. Advice by phone 02-433882.

Hadassah Medical Organization – Israel Cancer Association telephone support service 02-247676.

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23 Hamelacha St., Cluster 6, Caesarea
Tel: 06-363895 or 052-510410
Fax: 06-362212

هكذا من الاصل

DWELLINGS
Tel Aviv

PENTHOUSE IN BAVLI area, new exclusive building + sea view, 175 sq. m. balcony + storage. 8th floor, elevator and parking. Tel. 050-333838, 052-639616 (NS).

RASHI, 2ND FLOOR, parking, elevator, 100 sq.m., luxurious. $425,000. AVNER REALTY. Tel. 052-548440.

SALE/RENTAL, JAFFA, LARGE Arab-style house, view of sea and Old City, 400 sq. m. built. "KAV HAYAM". TEL. 03-5239988.

DWELLINGS
Dan Region

HOLIDAY RENTALS

LUXURIOUS CONDO FULLY furnished, very near beach, available mid May to September 1. Tel. 09-572460.

RENTALS

HERZLIYA PITUAH, PRIVATE house, well cared for garden, dunam plot. Tel. 03-685-0185, 09-573-405.

SALES

REHOVOT, FOR RELIGIOUS, 4,5 room apartments, immediate entry possible. "Mishav" . Tel. 08-9451-538.

PETAH TIKVA, 4 rooms, porches, parking, 1st floor, opposite synagogue, shopping, negotiable. Tel. 02-387584, (718) 376-1224 (U.S.).

KFAR-GANIM (PETAH TIKVAH), 85 + roof, large, well kept and wonderful. $590,000. Tel. 03-924-7473(NS).

DWELLINGS
Southern Coast

SALES

ASHKELON, VILLA, 5 rooms, beautiful, near marina, available immediately, unfurnished. Tel. 07-726167, 050-565769.

EILAT, BREATHTAKING VILLA, for serious only. 07-Tel. 07-375502, 050-315174.

HERZLIYA, 2, 1ST FLOOR, good condition, quiet, close to Beit Protea. Tel. 07-982911, 03-5443142, 052-622711.

SEMI-DETACHED COTTAGE, RE-HOV Yitzhak Hagiladi, Ashkelon. 200 sq.m. on 1/2 dunam. Rika - Tel. 07-737670 (eve.), 07-899755 (day).

DWELLINGS
Sharon Area

HERZLIYA PITUAH VILLA, + pool, facing sea, for rent/sale: Connections, Tel. 050-259581.

GENERAL

Real Estate & Investment
Dov Liberman
09-421943

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Roof Apt. 4 room + room-on-roof in quiet central location $260,000
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• Immediate entry, 4 rm. apt. Central $650
80 Ahuza Ra'anana

RA'ANANA
RENTAL Exclusive, luxurious private home 750 sq.m. land, 370 sq.m. built. Fully air conditioned, beautiful garden.
SALE Spacious new 3/ balconies. Opportunity $215,000
1st FLOOR 4.5/146 sq.m. w/elevator, parking. Hayovel St. $255,000
GARDEN Luxurious 4 rm. garden apt. High standards w/ garden $280,000
COTTAGES Luxury 7 room, 60 sq.m. basement, jacuzzi, 2 car garage, near Metro West $580,000
ANGLO-SAXON 80 AHUZA ST. RA'ANANA Tel: 09-7744153

BEAUTIFUL NEW HOUSE, Hod Hasharon, 6 rooms, garden $1,300, immediate, 09-403427.

RENTALS

EXCLUSIVE! HERZLIYA BET, duplex, 4, large terrace, $1,500, nice view. Cactus. Tel. 09-580001.

HERZLIYA PITUAH, CONVENIENT, 2, furnished, air conditioning, near sea. Tel. 09-558395.

HERZLIYA PITUAH, FAMILY house, 4 bedrooms, bathrooms, basement. $3000. OREN DUNSKY. Tel. 09-573096.

HERZLIYA HATZIRA, LOVELY, furnished cottage, 5 + basement, 2-3 years, available 1st of August. Tel. 09-573794.

HERZLIYA PITUAH VILLA, 7, spacious rooms, basement, shelter + pleasant garden. TEL. 09-919749, 03-6424930.

HERZLIYA PITUAH AND Kfar Shmaryahu selection of beautiful villas for rent. SHASHUA Tel. 09-570-878.

HERZLIYA PITUAH, 4 ROOMS, small cottage + garden. Tel. 09-572262, 09-510733 (eve.).

HERZLIYA PITUAH, CHOICE of furnished/empty homes from $1500. OREN DUNSKY. Tel. 09-573096.

HERZLIYA PITUAH, COZY cottage, 3 bedrooms + garden, excellent location. Tel. 09-509997, 09-543589.

HERZLIYA PITUAH FOR rent, 4 bedroom house with basement, near sea. MORAN REAL ESTATE. Tel. 09-572-759.

NEAR KFAR SABA, ESTATE, 4 bedroom house, 2 caravans, $2500. Tel. 09-904023.

NETANYA, ITAMAR BEN-AVI, 4 rooms + elevator + air-conditioning + storage + parking. Tel. 09-622423.

OKEANUS, 2 BEDROOMS, Fully furnished. High floor, sea view, long/short term rent. ILTAM REAL ESTATE. Tel. 09-589-611.

ZAHALA, PRESTIGIOUS, HOUSE, renovated, beautiful garden. $2750. Olivia. Tel. 09-583815.

ROOMMATES

IMMEDIATE, ROOMMATE FOR beautiful apartment in Herzliya. Tel. 09-507396, to call during the day, after Sunday.

SALES

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NEW IN RA'ANANA ! Sole penthouse on roof, small building, 80 sq.m. terrace. Entry now $450,000
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196 Ahuza Golan Center, Ra'anana Tel: 09-7718892 Fax: 09-7745284

CHOICE OF VILLAS & penthouses for sale/rent in Herzliya Pituah., Kfar Shmaryahu, Tel Aviv. ILTAM REAL ESTATE, Tel. 09-589-611.

inter city
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• **Beautiful** 4 & 5 room luxury garden, sun balcony apartments nearing completion in Ra'anana top location. **From $300,000**
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LUXURY ROOFTOP APTS. FOR SALE IN HERZLIYA
• **Special offer:** New luxury 5 rm. duplex apts. with rooftop. Immediate entry. **$350,000**
For rent in Ra'anana - Luxury 4 & 5 rm. garden & sun balcony apts., with/without aircon, immediate or summer entry.
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• SPECIAL OFFER 6 room cottage $395,000
• LUXURY 5 ROOM + garden. Fully furnished. A/C. From 1/8/96 $1,500
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Villa 300 sq.m., plus swimming pool, ½ dunam
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AZOREI CHEN, IMMEDIATE, 5, air conditioned, 2 x parking, 1st floor. $450,000, for quick decision. Tel. 09-7711624.

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HERZLIYA HEIGHTS PENTHOUSE, terrace, view, quiet, swimming pool, tennis court. $375,000. Excellent buy. Tel. 09-552812, 050- 868445 (MALDAN).

HERZLIYA PITUAH, NEW villa!! Luxurious, excellent location. SHASHUA Tel. 09-570-878.

HERZLIYA PITUAH, DUPLEX, renovated, $430,000. Olivia. Tel. 09-583815.

HERZLIYA/RAMAT HASHARON, NEW, luxury apartments sale/lease, pool, view. Tel. 052-740101.

KFAR SAVA, PENTHOUSE, beautiful, + parking, possible for clinic, elevator, $470,000, Tel. 09-7651613.

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NETANYA, PENTHOUSE ON Nitza Blvd, on the sea, 5, luxurious and special. 170sq.m., 11th floor + 220sq.m. balconies. Incredible view + underground parking, pool. CORAL. Tel. 09-572-777.

NETANYA. SPACIOUS, 4 rooms + dining room (5), 3 bathrooms/toilets, large, 3 directional, facing sea. Tel. 09-823-247(NS).

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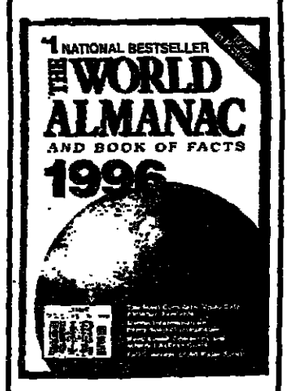
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Researchers: Many Ashkenazi women with ovarian cancer carry BRCA1 gene

JUDY SIEGEL

JERUSALEM researchers have found that almost half of the Ashkenazi women who have contracted ovarian cancer carried the mutated gene BRCA1, which was recently discovered to cause five percent to 12 percent of all breast and ovarian cancers.

An unexpected finding was that the defective gene is also common among women who had no other case of ovarian cancer in their immediate family. BRCA1 has not been found among Sephardi women.

The preliminary findings, released yesterday, were the result of a study of 25 ovarian cancer patients whose genetic makeup was examined at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital. The interdisciplinary research was conducted by Dr. David Hillela, Prof. Rafi Catane, and Dr. Bella Kaufman, of the hospital's oncology institute; Prof. Uzi Beller, of the oncological and surgical gynecology unit; and Dr. Ephrat Levy-Lahad, of the oncological genetic counseling clinic.

Beller said the finding was "important and very interesting," but that the incidence of the BRCA1 gene does not at present justify the testing of all Ashkenazi women.

"There are over 100 mutations linked to the genetically transmitted forms of the diseases," he noted.

If a first-degree relative of a woman with ovarian cancer is found to have the gene, she should consider having her ovaries removed, if she has finished having children and is going into menopause, Levy-Lahad said.

"The ability to detect the gene has another benefit," Beller said. "If we find a woman with ovarian cancer who is not a carrier of the gene, we can calm her in the knowledge that she will not pass it on to her daughters."

The latest discovery "shows us we don't know enough about this part of genetics. We are just at the beginning of the road," Beller added.

Levy-Lahad said the fact that numerous ovarian cancer patients with the gene did not have close relatives who had contracted the illness could be due to a number of possibilities. Women relatives may have died of it without the exact cause being diagnosed or made known to the family; the mothers, aunts, sisters, and grandmothers died young (a considerable number during the Holocaust), before the ovarian cancer could appear; and the woman had many male relatives who can pass on the gene but not get the cancer themselves.

In addition, she said, "Every gene has a certain amount of resistance, and not everyone with the gene will get the disease, although the majority will."

The study was carried out by examining the genetic makeup of all Shaare Zedek patients who recently developed ovarian cancer; those with a family history of the disease were compared with those did not. The mutation was found among 40% of the Ashkenazi patients who did not know of a similar case of the disease in their family.

The team now intends to test the genetic makeup of all their ovarian cancer patients from Ashkenazi backgrounds, along with their relatives, and to carefully watch those women who carry the gene.

Asher Wallfish, 'Post's' longtime Knesset correspondent, dies at 68

THE last thing that Asher Wallfish, *The Jerusalem Post's* parliamentary correspondent for more than a quarter of a century, told his family was that he wanted to be remembered as an educator and a journalist.

Asher died Wednesday, a month shy of his 68th birthday, of lung cancer. He was buried yesterday at Kibbutz Gvat.

Asher was born in Salford near Manchester, England, on June 10, 1928. He and his four brothers and sisters were raised in an ardently Zionist home. He spoke Hebrew from an early age and was a member of the Habonim youth movement.

In 1948, after receiving a B.A. in Oriental languages from Oxford University, Asher was sent to Marseilles, which had become a staging center for the transport of immigrants from Europe and North Africa to the fledgling Jewish state.

Thirty years later, in a *Jerusalem Post* Independence Day supplement, he described his experiences in the transit camp and summed it up by saying: "Marseilles is where Europe ended and Israel began for me."

He arrived here the following year and was a founding member of Kibbutz Kfar Hanassi in Upper Galilee, where he lived for 12 years. During that time, he served as a youth counselor, spent five years as principal of the local school, and two years as an emissary in Canada and the US. He married Claude on January 16, 1957.

Asher left the kibbutz in 1961 and settled in Jerusalem the following year. After three years in the IDF Censor's Office, he joined the *Post*. In 1967, he was assigned to the Knesset, from which he reported uninterruptedly until his retirement in June 1993.

During those years, Asher also reported at various times for the BBC, the *Daily Mail*, the *Australian*, the Australian and New Zealand broadcasting corporations, the *Jewish Chronicle*, and *Newsweek*. In 1973, he won an Overseas Press Club Award for radio news reporting of the Yom Kippur War. Several months after his retirement, the Knesset gave him a special award for his parliamentary coverage.



Asher Wallfish, educator and journalist.

I had the pleasure of working with Asher during the last two years of his career in the Knesset. We spent many hours together in a tiny room in the reporters' wing, working at close quarters and – from time to time – chatting about work and other matters.

I found him to be blessed with a unique charm – a blend of wisdom, a warm voice, fatherliness, and more than a hint of irony, which always kept his interlocutors amused but slightly off balance – no easy accomplishment when it comes to politicians. With utmost politeness and characteristic understatement, Asher good-naturedly conveyed to the subjects of his reporting that they couldn't pull the wool over his eyes. They liked him for that, and for the civility and accuracy of his writing.

Asher took great pride in the fact that he never revealed his opinions to the MKs, and that politicians from both sides of the spectrum liked and trusted him. It could not have been easy for him, since it was not for the lack of personal opinions that he refrained from expressing them. Yet, in some important way, Asher was probably more comfortable in a reticent role because it enabled him to conceal a sensitivity and vulnerability he had no desire to display.

Asher is survived by his wife Claude, four children – Corie, Tsila, Shmaya, and Patrick – and eight grandchildren. *Dan Izenberg*

SWISS

(Continued from Page 1)

recently cited as one of the banks that continued to do business with the Nazis after Swiss banking rules barred such dealings.

Although the Swiss are noted for precision timing, the meeting was delayed by some two hours, because the bankers' flight to New York was late.

Efforts to extricate Holocaust-era funds from the banks began in earnest last September with negotiations conducted by the World Jewish Restitution Organization and the Swiss. Since then, the issue has attracted the support of President Bill Clinton and the Congress. The Senate Banking Committee held hearings on April 23, when Baer publicly committed the bankers' association to participate in the committee and cooperate in the audit.

RACING

(Continued from Page 1)

horse races will go to the winners. The rest will be earmarked to support sports, which, though a worthy goal, is less important than education, he added.

Despite these objections, six of the seven MKs present supported the idea in principle.

"I have always supported [legalizing] gambling, because underground gambling is many times more dangerous that gambling which is regulated by law," explained Tichon.

The only one who opposed the idea was Poraz, who said he objects to gambling because it victimizes the weaker elements of society by seducing them into wasting money they cannot afford. He said he believes the poor actually gamble more than the well-do-to, and vigorously opposed allowing horse races without at least conducting a study of what types of people tend to gamble and the socio-economic effects of gambling.

Committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) announced that in his opinion, there would be horse racing here sooner or later, and the only question is when.

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הכנזו מן האצל

Yorkshire openers break 66-year-old record

LONDON (Reuter) – Yorkshire openers Martyn Moxon and Michael Vaughan broke a 66-year-old club record by reaching 316 without loss against Glamorgan in Cardiff as the English county cricket championship began yesterday.

The pair beat the previous county best of 235 for the opening wicket by Percy Holmes and Herbert Sutcliffe against Glamorgan in 1930.

Moxon reached his 43rd career century from 202 balls with 13 fours and eventually finished unbeaten on 150 when bad light forced an early end.

Vaughan, who reached three figures off 196 balls with 17 fours, hit a career-best 156 not out, leaving the pair needing just eight runs to beat the Yorkshire record for any wicket against Glamorgan set by Sutcliffe and Maurice Leyland in 1928.

Rain curtailed the day's play, though Gloucestershire's 20-year-old Andrew Symonds was also in outstanding form as wickets tumbled regularly at Lord's.

Symonds, who rejected England's overtures last season but has now made himself available, blasted seven fours in an unbeaten 42 off 40 balls as Gloucestershire closed on 94 for four in reply to the home side's 200 all out.

Left-arm seamer Ilott, who played in two Tests in South Africa in December, survived the cold and cheerless conditions to take three for 27 as Worcestershire reached 78 for four in 32.1 overs at New Road. Rain forced an early finish at Canterbury where Kent reached 63 for two after being put into bat against Lancashire.

Elsewhere, it was a story of frustration, with no play in the encounter between Derbyshire and Leicestershire at Derby, Durham's clash with Northamptonshire at Chester-le-Street or the Trent Bridge contest between Nottinghamshire and Sussex.

Bulls, Knicks headed for Round 2 showdown

MIAMI (AP) – Michael Jordan, playing in pain, scored 26 points Wednesday night to lead the Chicago Bulls past the Miami Heat 112-91 for a sweep of their first-round playoff series.

Chicago will play the New York Knicks in the second round of the playoffs. The Knicks swept the Cavaliers with an 81-76 win.

Scottie Pippen added his 17th career triple-double for Chicago with 22 points, 18 rebounds and 10 assists. Pippen's rebound total tied a career high.

The Bulls' three victories in the best-of-5 series were by an average of 23 points. They'll meet the New York Knicks in a best-of-7 series beginning Sunday in Chicago.

Jordan scored 17 points in the first 14 minutes as Chicago raced to a 42-25 lead. But for the second game in a row, he gave the Bulls a scare by leaving in the first half because of a back injury.

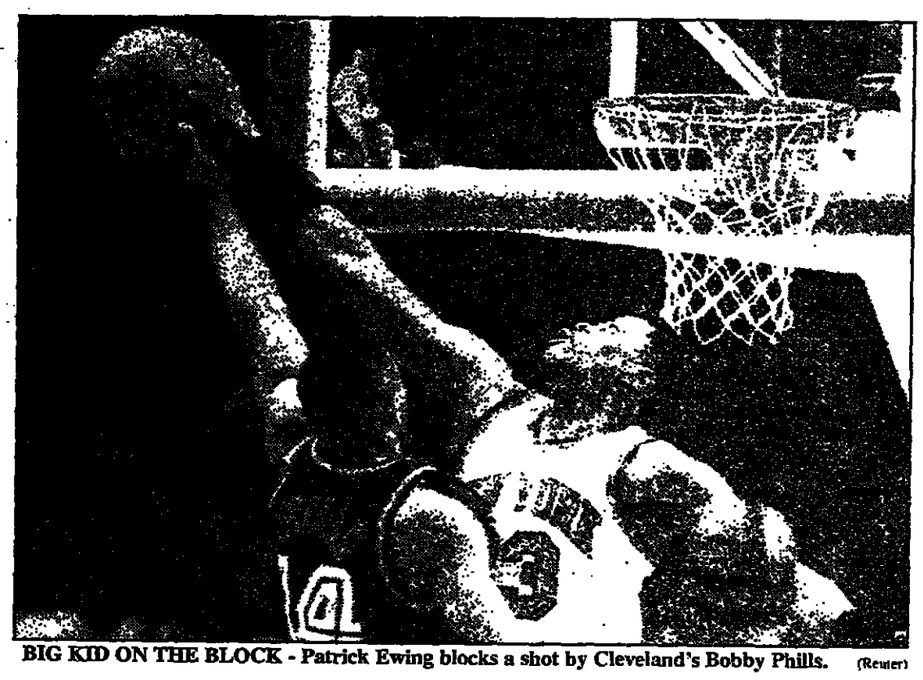
Knicks 81, Cavaliers 76

Host New York survived a terrible fourth quarter after celebrating a bit too early and swept their first-round playoff series from the Cleveland Cavaliers.

The Knicks, who opened a 19-point lead in the second quarter and seemed to be cruising in the third, went scoreless for more than five minutes in the final period and fell into a 70-70 tie with 4:51 left.

John Starks, who taunted Cleveland coach Mike Fratello late in the third quarter when the Knicks led by 13, made his fifth 3-pointer of the game and 14th of the series with 3:22 left to build the lead back to five.

Cleveland never got closer than two down the stretch – even though Patrick Ewing missed five of six free throws in the final 2:04. The Cavs were swept in a playoff series for the third time in four years.



BIG KID ON THE BLOCK - Patrick Ewing blocks a shot by Cleveland's Bobby Phills. (Reuter)

Starks scored 22 points for New York, while Terrell Brandon had 19 points for Cleveland.

Trail Blazers 98, Jazz 90

Rod Strickland and Arvydas Sabonis provided the offense as host Portland beat evened their first-round playoff series 2-2.

Strickland had 27 points, seven assists and six rebounds as Portland won its second straight at home to force a deciding Game 5 Sunday in Salt Lake City. Sabonis scored 25, hit all three of his 3-point attempts and grabbed 13 rebounds.

Portland took the lead for good in the first six minutes, led by as many as 17 in the second quarter, and was up by 21 in the third.

With stars Karl Malone and John Stockton suffering through horrible shooting nights, the Jazz got no closer than eight in the second half.

Suns 94, Spurs 93

Kevin Johnson made a key layup with 1:48 left and host Phoenix survived two last-second shots by San Antonio to stay alive in their first-round series.

The Spurs still lead the best-of-5 series 2-1, with Game 4 tonight in Phoenix.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS:
New York 81, Cleveland 76
(New York wins series 3-0)
Chicago 112, Miami 91
(Chicago wins series 3-0)
Portland 98, Utah 90
(Series tied 2-2)
Phoenix 94, San Antonio 93
(San Antonio leads series 2-1)
LAST NIGHT:
Indiana at Atlanta
(Atlanta leads series 2-1)
LA Lakers at Houston
(Houston leads series 2-1)
Seattle at Sacramento
(Seattle leads series 2-1)
TONIGHT:
San Antonio at Phoenix

TOMORROW
Houston at LA Lakers
(if necessary)
Sacramento at Seattle (if necessary)
SUNDAY:
Atlanta at Indiana (if necessary)
Phoenix at S Ant (if necessary)
Portland at Utah (if necessary)

Hapoel Jerusalem goes up 2-1

ARYEH DEAN COHEN

HAPOEL Jerusalem Coach Pini Gershon may have pulled a rabbit out of his hat last night, but it was Norris Coleman's return from a first-half disappearing act that led the hosts to their 98-76 rout of Hapoel Galil Elyon.

Coleman, who was held scoreless in the first half and spent much of his time frustrated on the bench, roared back with 22 second-half points as Jerusalem grabbed a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five series to determine who plays Maccabi Tel Aviv for the league crown.

Gershon surprised the crowd by starting Jonathan Delzel instead of team captain Adi Gordon, apparently to get more defense into the game. But it was Delzel's offense that carried Jerusalem early. The little-used shooting guard – who has so far figured big in Gershon's playoff plans – hit four out of five three-point attempts in the first half. Thanks to Delzel's pyrotechnics and very aggressive team defense, Jerusalem led early, 23-14.

However, thanks to some over-reffing by officials David Dagan and Yosef Alimi, Galil got back into the game. Jerusalem's side of the scoreboard was almost completely lit up with fouls by the half, as Gur Shelef and Andrew Kennedy went to the line repeatedly.

When Alon Stein hit a three-pointer, Galil had tied it at 37. Moments later, Shelef scored again to give his club a 41-39 lead, which would have been larger if Galil had been more accurate from the line. However, another Delzel basket – this time just for two – at the buzzer tied it at 43 at halftime.

Gershon left no doubts where he was going in the second half, with the ball quickly going to Coleman inside, who hit his first basket to start a 7-0 Jerusalem run.

Then it went to Billy Thompson – who did a little magic of his own, coming back from a disappointing game Monday night – who also got into the act. Add two three-pointers by Coleman and one by Adi Gordon, which gave Jerusalem a 62-51 lead with 14 minutes to play, and Galil Elyon's fate had essentially been sealed.

To their credit, coach David Blatt's club didn't give up, holding Jerusalem scoreless for several minutes to cut the lead to 75-70 with 5:20 left. But then two more three-pointers by Jerusalem, the first by Papi Turgeman – who had several magnificent assists – and the second by Gordon suddenly boosted the lead to 83-70 with 3:50 left, and this time, even Galil Elyon folded.

What followed was an old-fashioned stomping, as the 3,000 plus fans partied along with Gordon & Co., cheering as each of their heroes left the court to allow the bench to get some playoff minutes.

Coleman and Delzel got the loudest cheers, the latter a matinee idol for the night instead of an understudy. As Hubert Roberts scored the final basket on an offensive rebound, the fans swarmed onto the court to celebrate.

The series now returns to Kfar Blum Monday night, with Blatt's club facing the Herculean task of having to win the next two against a rejuvenated Jerusalem team.

Coleman and Thompson were high scorers with 22 each, while Gil Sela, Kennedy and Shelef each had 15 for Galil Elyon.

Clemens wins first

BOSTON (AP) – Roger Clemens struck out 13 for his first win of the year on Wednesday, sending the Tigers to their 12th loss in 13 games.

Like his team, which holds the worst record in baseball, Clemens (1-4) had been off to his worst start ever.

He struck out Cecil Fielder three times. Clemens gave up six hits, walked none and lost his shutout with two outs in the ninth on Bobby Higginson's RBI double.

Scott Aldred (0-3) allowed four earned runs on 11 hits, two walks and two hit batters in seven innings.

Indians 9, Chicago 5

Albert Belle and Omar Vizquel homered as Cleveland won at home.

Sandy Alomar had two hits, extending his hitting streak to a career-high 15 games, and two RBIs for the Indians, winners of nine straight at home and 15 of 18 overall.

They swept the two-game series with the White Sox, who had won seven in a row before that.

Blue Jays 9, Brewers 3

Juan Guzman, who allowed four hits over eight innings, didn't allow a runner past first until the topof the sixth when Jeff Cirillo hit a two-run homer. He struck out eight and walked four.

Carlos Delgado homered and hit his first career triple, and Robert Perez and Sandy Martinez each drove in two runs for Toronto.

Twins 6, Royals 5 (10)

Reliever Jeff Montgomery hit Minnesota's Paul Molitor with a pitch with the bases loaded in the bottom of the 10th.

Rich Becker, who drove in three runs, drew a one-out walk from Montgomery (0-1). Chuck Knoblauch walked and pinch-hitter Chip Hale loaded the bases with a bouncer that stopped just inside the third-base line.

Rangers 5, Mariners 4

Will Clark homered in the seventh inning to give host Texas the victory as Mariners starter Randy Johnson had his shortest outing since 1993.

Johnson, bothered by tightness in his right calf, lasted only two innings, allowing six hits and four runs. It was Johnson's shortest stint since July 23, 1993, when he lasted 1⅓ innings in a 9-4 loss to Cleveland.

Yankees 11, Orioles 6 (15)

Tino Martinez hit a grand slam in the top of the 15th inning as New York completed a two-game sweep in a game that lasted 5 hours, 34 minutes. One night earlier, the teams played for 4:21, the longest nine-inning game in baseball history.

Wade Boggs opened the 15th with a single in the rain off Kent Mercker (2-2). Derek Jeter tried to bunt but was hit by a pitch. Jimmy Myers relieved and got a groundout that advanced the runners. After an intentional walk, Martinez hit the first pitch from Myers into the left-field seats. Gerald Williams later singled in a run.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Cubs 9, Cardinals 3

Ryne Sandberg, returning from a week off, celebrated the first month of his comeback by hitting two of Chicago's four homers as visiting St. Louis went down to its sixth straight loss.

Expos 4, Mets 0
Mets 6, Expos 0

Visiting Montreal's Pedro Martinez took a no-hitter into the seventh inning against New York in the opener of a doubleheader split, but Kevin Roberson broke it up and Martinez finished with a two-hitter, leading the Montreal Expos over the Mets.

In the second game, Jason Isringhausen (2-2) allowed four hits in eight innings to win for the first time in four starts, helping the Mets to a 6-0 victory. New York has won eight of 10 while Montreal has won nine of 12.

WEDNESDAY'S NL RESULTS:
Chicago 9, St. Louis 3
Montreal 4, New York 0 (1st)
New York 6, Montreal 0 (2nd)
Houston 3, Atlanta 0
Pittsburgh 4, Cincinnati 3
Philadelphia 6, Florida 5
Colorado 4, Los Angeles 1
San Diego 9, San Francisco 4
WEDNESDAY'S AL RESULTS:
Boston 5, Detroit 1
Cleveland 9, Chicago 5
Toronto 9, Milwaukee 3
Minnesota 6, Kansas City 5 (10)
Texas 5, Seattle 4
New York 11, Baltimore 6 (15)
California 6, Oakland 4

Mac TA ready to secure title again

DEREK FATTAL

WITH just three rounds of the National League season left to play, this weekend's 28th round of soccer action sees leader Maccabi Tel Aviv smack on course to retain its title crown.

At the lower depths of the table, Betar Tel Aviv and Maccabi Jaffa have a final chance to avoid plummeting to the Second Division. Unless the two clubs secure victories this weekend, they will need the services of a magician to avoid the drop.

Last weekend's last-minute equalizer by Eitan Tayeb effectively killed off Betar Jerusalem's challenge in the championship race. Maccabi Haifa is now the only club with a chance of stopping Dror Kashtan's Tel Aviv outfit, and even so, the odds remain extremely slim with the leaders lying six points ahead with just nine points up for grabs.

Assuming Maccabi Tel Aviv reaps an away win against Hapoel Petah Tikva tomorrow, Maccabi Haifa must beat city rivals Hapoel in the round's big game, the Haifa derby, to prevent their rivals from the Big Orange taking the silverware this weekend. Giora Speigel's men will need no reminding that Hapoel emerged 2-1 winners when the sides meant earlier in the present campaign. The form of the league's top scorer Haim Revivo with 25 goals to his tally, will be critical for Maccabi. Nevertheless, Hapoel's Reuven Atar is no slouch in front of goal, having found the net 20 times this season.

Should the Tel Avivians falter and Maccabi Haifa overcome its neighbor, the season's climax could end in a real thriller.

Bottom-placed Maccabi Jaffa (19 points) might just as well kiss the National League goodbye if it cannot beat 13th-placed Hapoel Beersheba (24 points) at home. A win for the Negev side should just about ensure another year in the top flight as it will take them out of range of one of the relegation spots.

Between these two sides lie Betar Tel Aviv (21 points) and Zafririm Holon (23 points). Betar has much the tougher opponent this weekend, facing Betar Jerusalem at Teddy Stadium, while the Holonis take on Bnei Yehuda at home.

Once again there is no program in the Second Division where play will recommence next weekend.

This weekend's National League fixtures (kick-off tomorrow at 17:00 tomorrow unless otherwise stated, first round results in parentheses): Hapoel Petah Tikva v. Maccabi Tel Aviv (0-3), Maccabi Haifa v. Hapoel Haifa (1-2) Kiryat Eliezer, Betar Jerusalem v. Betar Tel Aviv (4-0) Teddy Stadium 16:00, Hapoel Tel Aviv v. Hapoel Kfar Sava (0-1) Bloomfield, Maccabi Herzliya v. Maccabi Petah Tikva (2-1) Herzliya 16:00, Ironi Rishon Lezion v. Hapoel Beit She'an (1-2), Zafririm Holon v. Bnei Yehuda (2-3) and Hapoel Beersheba v. Maccabi Jaffa (1-0)

A touch of class: Hoddle chosen as England coach

LONDON (Reuter) – Glenn Hoddle, who was appointed as England's youngest ever soccer boss yesterday, has devoted a career to bringing poise and intelligence to the bruising cut and thrust of English soccer.

In and out of the national team in the 1980s despite an unquestionable natural talent, he is quietly determined that players with similar gifts are not overlooked in the future.

"I will never change my philosophy," he said after taking over at London club Chelsea. "I get no enjoyment watching the ball lofted from one end of the pitch to the other."

Hoddle, 38, has the right qualifications for the job he inherits after Euro 96: a distinguished career for club and country and experience in continental football.

If there are doubts over his suitability, they stem from his lack of experience as a coach. He turned player-manager only five years ago and has yet to bring trophies to Swindon, where he had his first managerial appointment, or to Chelsea.

Despite that, he has impressed with the type of soccer he has brought to his sides. Swindon was a free-flowing attacking team which gained promotion from the first division to the Premier League, while Chelsea's whole style has changed under his guidance.

Chelsea may not have won anything, but it has certainly caught the eye with an exciting, adventurous brand of soccer which has brought it closer to silverware than at any other time in the past 20 years.

A softly spoken family man and a practicing Christian, he lives in Ascot, west of London, with his wife and three children.

As a player, Hoddle delighted and frustrated in equal measure.

On his day he was irresistible, an elegant figure with superb vision and ball control, capable of splitting open a defense with a single 50-meter pass.

But when his team was under pressure, he tended to fade from the game, and critics questioned his commitment and work rate.

While his playing talents were never truly appreciated in his home country, Hoddle caught the eye of the greatest players on the continent.

"In France we would have built the national team around him," former French captain and midfield genius Michel Platini said. "He would have won at least 100 caps."

Instead, Hoddle played 53 times for England.

"I am proud of the 53 caps I got rather than the 50 or so I didn't," Hoddle once said. "Perhaps England managers regret it. After all, we had no success through that period."

Born on October 27, 1957 at Hayes, near London, he was picked up by Tottenham in 1974. He turned professional a year later and scored on his debut aged 18.

Within four years he was in the England team, scoring the first of his eight international goals on his debut in a European championship qualifier at Wembley.

He was the linchpin of an attractive Spurs side in the 1980s, making nearly 500 appearances for the Londoners and scoring 110 goals. He won FA Cup winners medals in 1981 and 1982 with Spurs.

In 1987 he moved to the continent, inspiring Monaco to the French league title the following year.

His England career, which had faltered under Bobby Robson, ended on a low note with a 3-1 defeat by the Soviet Union in a dismal European Championship campaign in West Germany.

Two years later he retired from the game through injury, but in 1991 he was back as player-manager at Swindon, guiding the back-water club to the Premier League with tidy, intelligent football.

From Swindon he moved to Chelsea, taking them to an FA Cup final and scooping up Dutch master Ruud Gullit from Sampdoria to play the role at Chelsea that Hoddle himself had played at Spurs.

Unlike Venables, Hoddle will have little scope for experiment before the qualifying matches for England's next big challenge – the 1998 World Cup in France.

The first match is in Moldova on September 1, nine weeks after the Euro 96 final. Poland visit Wembley five weeks later and by then England fans will be crying out for success from the new man in charge.

In Wednesday's Premier League action, Liverpool and Arsenal played to a scoreless draw. The Gunners must now beat Bolton on Sunday in order to clinch a UEFA Cup berth.

Jerusalem, Haifa hot in nat'l bowls tourney

NORMAN SPIRO

IN a field day for the underdogs, it was the Jerusalem and Haifa clubs which won the men's triples and pairs respectively in the annual national fives competition. In the final playoff, Jerusalem's 18-year old Boaz Marcus skipped his side in outstanding form and well supported by David Llewellyn and Steven Tanchum, beat the Kfar HaMaccabiah trio of Faz Kusman, Johnny Gordon and Motti Pollak 26-23, despite losing 11 shots in the last two ends.

In the pairs, Haifa's Chaim Shefer with Yair Lieberthal (of Israel's national junior side) outclassed their Raanana opponents of Raymond Sher and Colin Silberstein for a 33-14 win.

In the women's triples final, Israel's selected trio for the forthcoming World Championships – Maureen Hirschowitz, Merle Swerdlow and Isobel Myers –found the going tough against the well-combined bowling of Ramat Gan's Edna Zomberg, Tami Kamzel and Tzila Gavish. Ramat Gan led throughout the game to win 19-16. Similarly Israel's international pairing of Rene Kusman and Carmel Scop met strong opposition from Netanya's Joyce Geller and Pam Bobrov, when they won 19-16 after 16-all at the 18th end.

The second leg of the competition continues with the singles and the fours.

Joseph Hoffman, Sports Editor

Crystal Palace fan attacks prosecutor in courtroom after conviction

LONDON (AP) – Crystal Palace fan Matthew Simmons attacked the prosecutor in the courtroom yesterday after being convicted of provoking French star Eric Cantona's kung-fu attack.

Simmons, 21, was found guilty by Croydon magistrates of two charges of using threatening words and behavior towards Cantona during a game last year between Manchester United and Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park.

Simmons attacked prosecutor Jeffery McCann as he was asking the three-member magistrates panel for an order banning the fan from soccer grounds.

As McCann began to speak, Simmons jumped over a bench and grabbed the prosecutor from behind in a head lock. He appeared to try to kick and punch McCann.

"I am innocent," Simmons shouted. "I promise. I swear on the Bible."

Mayhem ensued as six policemen and two custody officers sought to restrain Simmons, who lunged towards the press gallery and shouted, "You scum."

Simmons was eventually overpowered and led from the courtroom in handcuffs.

For the Cantona incident, the magistrates fined Simmons £500 and ordered him to pay £200 in legal costs.

Simmons was sentenced to seven days in jail for contempt of court for his assault on the prosecutor.

The magistrates also issued an order banning Simmons from all soccer matches in England and Wales for one year.

Simmons, a double-glazing fitter from south London, was convicted of provoking Cantona during a nationally-televised game on January 25, 1995.

Cantona, the Manchester United striker, was leaving the field after being sent off for a foul when he suddenly vaulted over the advertising hoardings and drove his feet into Simmons' chest, then punched him twice.

The prosecution said Simmons ran down 11 rows and taunted Cantona with obscene gestures and words, including epithets referring to his French heritage.

Jerusalem Post Softball League

	W	L	Pct.	GB
A Division				
Zionitours	9	0	1.000	–
Global Financial	9	1	.900	½
Shani Tal Tigers	6	2	.750	2½
Arch Seminars	6	4	.600	3½
Norman's Steakhouse	5	4	.556	4
RiseHi Furniture	3	4	.429	5
Crazy Richards	3	5	.375	5½
Shomrat Cubs	1	7	.125	7½
B Division				
Kalla Pistols	4	3	.572	–
Net Media	4	4	.500	½
Aztek Glomars	4	5	.444	1
Kibbutz Gezer	2	6	.250	2½
Vision Center	2	6	.200	3½
Hasaot Benny	1	6	.143	3

See today's edition of *In Jerusalem* for league roundup and schedule.

SCOREBOARD

World Ice Hockey Championship – Wednesday's quarter-final results: Russia 5, Italy 2; Czech Republic 6, Germany 1; France 6, Austria 3 (first relegation) Last night: France vs. Austria (second relegation)

Yigal Amir appeals to Supreme Court

Argues no proof his shots killed Rabin

EVELYN GORDON

YIGAL Amir, convicted of the murder of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, yesterday appealed to the Supreme Court, arguing it had not been proven that his shots actually killed Rabin.

Attorneys Gabi Shahar and Shmuel Fleishman cited the evidence of ballistics expert Baruch Glatstein, who said his laboratory tests of Rabin's clothing showed that the first bullet to hit him was fired from a distance of less than 25 cm., while the second was fired with the gun actually touching his clothing.

Glatstein was particularly emphatic on the latter point, the appeal noted, and said the marks made by the second bullet could only be made by a gun fired while touching the clothing. The bullet which wounded bodyguard Yoram Rubin also might have been fired from almost point-blank range, Glatstein said.

However, the appeal noted, the testimony of all the eyewitnesses, including an amateur videotape of the incident, showed that Amir was never close enough to Rabin to have fired these shots. The appeal also cited several other points to support the theory that someone else had fired the fatal shots.

First, it said, several witnesses testified the gunshots had an odd, distinctive sound, whereas tests of Amir's gun showed that its sound was perfectly normal.

Second, Amir told the police immediately after the event that he had put nine bullets in his gun.

Since four bullets were fired at Rabin – the two which hit him, the one which hit Rubin, and one which missed, but was later found at the site – there should have been five bullets left in Amir's gun. However, there were eight.

Third, the appeal cited the unidentified watch and eyeglasses found at the scene of the crime. And finally, several witnesses heard someone call out "Blank!" immediately after the shooting, but this person has never been identified.

Contradicting all this evidence are the ballistics tests which showed the bullets in Rabin's body were fired from Amir's gun.

The appeal, therefore, charged that the bullets may have been tampered with, since, it said, there are no records of what happened to the bullets between the time they were removed from Rabin's body on the night of November 4-5 and the time they were delivered to the Abu Kabir forensics institute at noon on November 5.

Due to all of this, the appeal said, Amir should be acquitted of murder and instead convicted of attempted murder.

Alternatively, the appeal argued, the charge should be reduced to manslaughter, because Tel Aviv District Court erred in finding that Amir intended to kill Rabin.

Amir claimed that he only intended to paralyze him, and the appeal said this claim is supported by the fact that Amir's motivation for the shooting was the belief that Rabin was a *rodef* – someone who is trying to kill you, and therefore, under Jewish law, can be killed preemptively.

The appeal noted that, according to Jewish law, one tries to disable the *rodef* first, and kills him only if this fails.

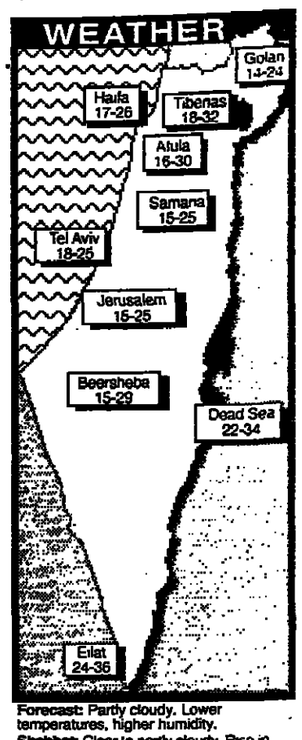
The appeal also argued that Amir was psychologically unbalanced, and should therefore be convicted of manslaughter rather than murder.

Finally, the appeal challenged Amir's sentence, which was life for killing Rabin plus six years for wounding Rubin. Even if the murder conviction is upheld, the appeal argued, the six-year sentence for wounding Rubin – the maximum for the crime – is too stiff.

Furthermore, it said, that sentence should be served simultaneously with the life sentence, rather than in addition to it.



Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert congratulates pupils of the city's Zalman Aran School, which won a flag-making contest based on the theme 'Jerusalem – a healthy city' to mark World Health Day.



Forecast: Partly cloudy. Lower temperatures, higher humidity.
Shabbat: Clear to partly cloudy. Rise in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW C	LOW F	HIGH C	HIGH F	
Amsterdam	03	37	10	50	cloudy
Berlin	10	50	18	64	cloudy
Buenos Aires	19	66	29	77	clear
Cairo	21	70	38	100	clear
Chicago	04	39	16	61	cloudy
Copenhagen	06	43	11	52	cloudy
Frankfurt	11	52	21	70	pcloudy
Geneva	10	50	14	57	rain
Helsinki	-02	29	11	52	clear
Hong Kong	24	75	29	84	clear
Jo'burg	07	45	20	68	clear
Lisbon	10	50	18	64	cloudy
London	08	43	12	54	cloudy
Los Angeles	18	64	32	90	clear
Madrid	07	45	16	61	pcloudy
Montreal	05	41	16	61	pcloudy
Moscow	14	57	18	64	pcloudy
New York	11	52	18	64	pcloudy
Paris	07	45	15	59	cloudy
Rome	12	54	18	64	pcloudy
Stockholm	03	37	13	55	clear

Police raid Jerusalem casinos

JERUSALEM police and Income Tax Authority and VAT investigators arrested eight owners and employees of illegal casinos in Jerusalem last night.

They confiscated roulette wheels and slot machines worth hundreds of thousands of shekels.

The raid was the result of an investigation which had lasted several months, during which undercover policemen patronized the casinos.

Police said they have information about other casinos and additional raids are planned.

The police found that the casinos, which had been operating in stores in Mahane Yehuda, the city center, and Har Hahotzvim for more than a year, took in tens of thousands of shekels each night.

Several of the eight detainees, one a minor, were known to the police.

One dealer had been arrested in a previous raid.

Police also detained several gamblers, who told of significant losses that had depleted their bank accounts and forced them to sell their homes. (Itim)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jerusalem pupils demand radon-free building

Hundreds of pupils from the Mamlachti Bet elementary school in East Talpiot and their parents protested outside Jerusalem City Hall yesterday demanding the school be moved to another building. Two weeks ago, dangerously high levels of radon were found in the school building and, at the beginning of this week, parents called a strike, refusing to allow their children into the building. The school had been closed for three weeks in December and January because dangerously high levels of radon were detected. *Itim*

US denies polling Israeli voters

A spokesman for the US Embassy yesterday denied an Israeli newspaper story regarding a United States Information Agency poll of Israeli voters. The story claimed a USIA poll showed a one percent margin between Shimon Peres and Binyamin Netanyahu. "The story lacks all basis in fact," spokesman Richard Scorza said. "Neither the USIA or the embassy possesses any such poll." *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Returning Israeli charged with smuggling cocaine

Ya'acov Ohanona, 44, was charged with smuggling 38 kilograms of cocaine into the country by Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

The cocaine was found hidden in a shipment that Ohanona, a resident of Moshav Kadima who had been living in New York, had sent here with his rights as a returning resident. The shipment arrived at Haifa Port in March. *Itim*

Nigeria denies training Hizbullah

The Nigerian Embassy released the following statement yesterday: "Pursuant to a publication in a Nigerian newspaper, quoting alleged Israeli sources, and the Israel Radio broadcast about the presence of a Hizbullah unit in Nigeria, Nigerian Ambassador Ignatius Olisemeka met with Eitan Bentsur, senior deputy-director-general of the Foreign Ministry.

"Olisemeka categorically stated that Nigeria has no Hizbullah or any foreign training bases on its territory. Bentsur expressed the Israeli government's concern over the worldwide activities of Hizbullah." *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Noted author, former MK Emile Habibi dies at 75

DAVID RUDGE

EMILE Habibi, veteran Israeli Arab author and former MK, died yesterday at 75.

Habibi, one of the founding members of the Israel Communist Party and an MK from 1952-1972, is to be buried in Haifa, his home city, today.

Palestinian poet Mahmud Darweesh is expected to among the mourners at the funeral.

Reports said Darweesh had entered Israel secretly from Jordan, with the permission of the authorities, to meet Habibi, who died before they could get together.

"For many years, he fought for peace and coexistence," Culture Minister Shulamit Aloni told Israel Radio.

"A day after May 1, the poison of death kidnapped Emile Habibi, a star, a banner who lived and still lives in the conscience of all forces of peace," said Mohammed Naffa, secretary-general of the Israeli Communist Party.

Habibi was awarded the Israel Prize for literature in 1992 and accepted the award, after some hesitation, to the consternation of many Arabs here and abroad.

He had stirred controversy among Jewish politicians and academics two years earlier, when he was presented with the Palestinian "Al-Kuds" award by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Cairo.

His acceptance of both awards, however, was in keeping with Habibi's consistent belief in peaceful coexistence and a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Habibi left politics in 1972, ostensibly to concentrate on his literary work and editing the Communist Party's newspaper *Al-Ittihad*, which he turned into a daily in 1983.

He continued to edit the paper until 1989 when he split with the party following the break-up of the system in the former Soviet Union.

Two years later, he officially resigned from the party and all active political work.

Habibi wrote several books, which brought him recognition throughout the world, especially here and in the Arab countries.

In his most famous novel, *The Op-simist*, which depicts the dilemma of an Israeli Arab, Habibi coined a new word derived from optimist and pessimist.

The book was translated into 12 languages, including Hebrew, and has been staged as a play in both Arabic and Hebrew.

According to reports, his tombstone will bear the inscription, "Emile Habibi remains in Haifa forever."

Ex-GSS informer convicted of spying for Palestinian Authority

MOHAMMED Abdallah, 24, of Tel Aviv, a former General Security Service informer, was convicted of spying for the Palestinian Authority by the Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

Abdallah, originally from Aja, near Jenin, and an informer between 1989 and 1995, confessed to the crime.

Last year, he approached Palestinian intelligence in Jericho and offered to provide them with information on the GSS that he had gleaned during his work there.

He described his recruitment and activities, and provided the names and other identifying information about his controllers. He also provided the names of several others he suspected of being informers.

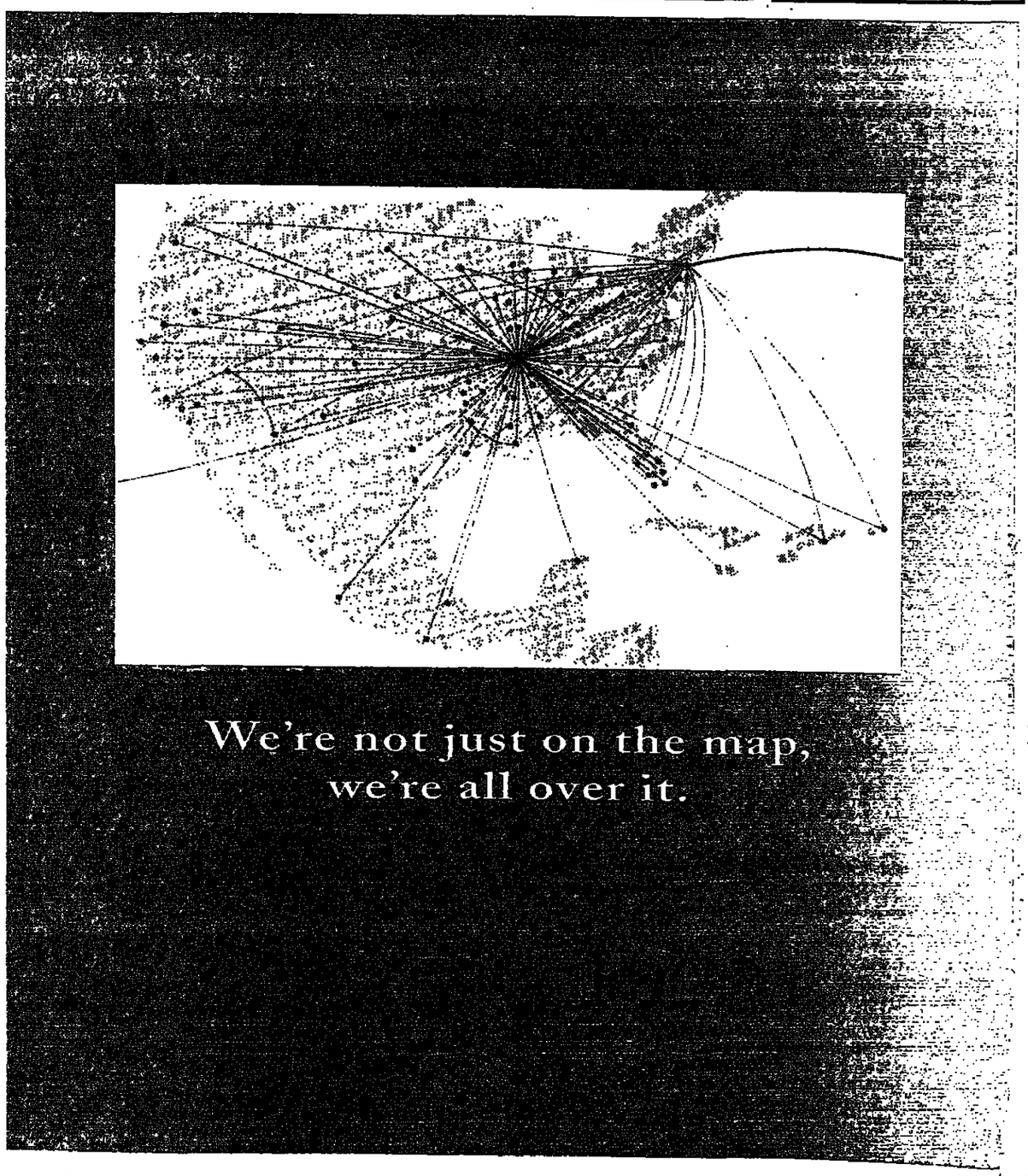
He also agreed to serve as a double agent, and returned to Israel to carry out the tasks assigned him, including the murder of another suspected informer.

The court set his sentencing hearing for May 28. (Itim)

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